



IAPUC Excellent Membership Admission Standards

Document No.: IAPUC/MEM/APP-EXC-2026-001

Version: 1.1.2

Effective Date: May 15, 2025

Issuing Body: International Association of Private Universities and Colleges (IAPUC)
Board of Directors

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Applicable to: Individual professionals who have demonstrated exceptional contributions to private higher education and seek the highest tier of IAPUC individual recognition.

Preamble

The International Association of Private Universities and Colleges (IAPUC) is the world's only multi-disciplinary quality assurance body dedicated exclusively to private higher education. While our Institutional Membership and IQA accreditation serve to elevate organizations, the **Excellent Membership** tier exists to honor and empower the individuals whose vision, leadership, and scholarship have shaped the sector. This document sets forth the rigorous standards, procedures, rights, and obligations governing admission to and maintenance of Excellent Membership—the pinnacle of individual professional recognition within IAPUC.

Chapter 1: General Provisions

Article 1: Purpose and Scope

1.1 These Standards serve to:

- (a) Define the eligibility criteria and application procedures for IAPUC Excellent Membership;
- (b) Ensure that the **E.IAPUC** designation is reserved for individuals of the highest professional standing and integrity;
- (c) Provide a transparent pathway for Regular Members to ascend to Excellent Membership;
- (d) Articulate the distinctive rights and responsibilities that accompany this lifetime honor.

1.2 These Standards apply to all individuals seeking to attain or maintain Excellent Membership, whether through upgrade from Regular Membership or via direct

nomination.

Article 2: Definition and Positioning

2.1 Excellent Membership represents the highest tier of IAPUC individual recognition. It is not a routine progression but a selective distinction conferred upon senior professionals whose work has had a demonstrable, lasting impact on private higher education at a national, regional, or global level.

2.2 Holders of Excellent Membership are entitled to use the post-nominal designation **E.IAPUC** (Excellent Member of the International Association of Private Universities and Colleges). This designation is a protected mark of professional excellence and must be used in accordance with the IAPUC Brand Management Code.

2.3 Excellent Members are expected to serve as ambassadors of IAPUC's mission, mentors to emerging professionals, and contributors to the advancement of quality assurance in private higher education.

Chapter 2: Eligibility Criteria

Article 3: Prerequisite

3.1 An applicant for Excellent Membership must already be an IAPUC Regular Member in good standing, with no unresolved disciplinary actions or outstanding fee obligations.

3.2 In exceptional cases, the Board of Directors may waive the Regular Membership prerequisite for a candidate of extraordinary eminence, provided the candidate applies for Regular Membership simultaneously with the Excellent Membership nomination. Such cases require a two-thirds majority vote of the Board.

Article 4: Professional Experience

4.1 The applicant must possess a minimum of **fifteen (15) years** of full-time professional experience in one or more of the following domains within higher education:

- (a) Teaching and academic leadership;
- (b) Research and scholarly publication;
- (c) Institutional administration and governance;
- (d) Quality assurance, accreditation, or regulatory oversight;
- (e) Educational policy development or reform.

4.2 The fifteen-year requirement is measured cumulatively; interruptions for further study, family leave, or public service do not disqualify the applicant, provided the total active professional engagement meets the threshold.

Article 5: Demonstrated Contributions

5.1 The applicant must provide verifiable evidence of significant, sustained contributions in **at least two (2)** of the following five dimensions:

(a) Scholarly Impact: Authorship of influential research papers, books, or monographs that have advanced knowledge in private higher education, quality assurance, or a relevant academic discipline. Evidence may include citation metrics, peer reviews, or adoption as standard texts.

(b) Institutional Leadership: Service in a senior executive role (e.g., President, Vice-Chancellor, Provost, Dean, Quality Director) at a recognized private university or college, during which the applicant demonstrably improved institutional quality, accreditation status, or strategic positioning.

(c) Sectoral Influence: Significant contributions to the development or reform of quality assurance frameworks, accreditation standards, or higher education policy at the national, regional, or international level. Evidence includes policy papers adopted by governments or agencies, leadership of standard-setting bodies, or recognized advisory roles.

(d) Honors and Awards: Receipt of major teaching awards, research prizes, lifetime achievement honors, or equivalent recognition from reputable academic or professional organizations.

(e) Service to IAPUC or Peer Organizations: Sustained volunteer leadership, committee chairmanship, or other substantial contributions to IAPUC, or equivalent service to other international quality assurance networks or academic associations.

5.2 Contributions claimed under this Article must be supported by documentary evidence, such as publication lists, appointment letters, award certificates, or testimonials from credible third parties.

Article 6: Ethical Standing and Good Character

6.1 The applicant must have an unblemished record of professional ethics and integrity. Any finding of academic misconduct, financial impropriety, or serious professional misconduct within the preceding ten (10) years shall disqualify the applicant, unless the Membership Credentials Committee determines, by unanimous vote, that the matter has been fully remediated and poses no risk to the reputation of IAPUC.

6.2 The applicant must submit a signed declaration affirming that they have not been subject to criminal conviction, professional license revocation, or disciplinary sanction by an academic or professional body during the relevant period.

Article 7: Nomination and Recommendation

7.1 Excellent Membership cannot be obtained through self-nomination alone. The applicant must be proposed through one of the following channels:

(a) Institutional Nomination: A written nomination from the Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent) of at least **two (2) IAPUC Institutional Members** (Full Member or Accredited Member). The nominating officers must attest to their personal knowledge of the applicant's qualifications and character.

(b) Governance Nomination: Nomination by a member of the IAPUC Board of Directors, a Chair of a Standing Committee, or the President of the Association.

(c) Peer Nomination: Nomination by at least **three (3) current IAPUC Excellent Members** who can substantiate the applicant's contributions.

7.2 Each nomination must be accompanied by a detailed letter of support, not exceeding 1,000 words, that specifically addresses how the nominee meets the criteria set forth in Articles 4, 5, and 6.

Chapter 3: Application and Evaluation Procedures

Article 8: Application Submission

8.1 The applicant (or nominator on their behalf) shall submit a complete application package to the IAPUC Membership Credentials Committee, containing:

- (a) The Excellent Membership Application Form;
- (b) A comprehensive curriculum vitae highlighting relevant experience and achievements;
- (c) A personal statement (maximum 1,500 words) articulating the applicant's contributions to private higher education and vision for engagement with IAPUC;
- (d) All required nomination letters;
- (e) Supporting evidence for each dimension of contribution claimed under Article 5;
- (f) The signed ethical declaration.

8.2 Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and shall be acknowledged within ten (10) working days of receipt.

Article 9: Review and Vetting

9.1 The Membership Credentials Committee shall conduct an initial review within thirty (30) days to verify completeness and prima facie eligibility. Incomplete applications shall be returned with a request for supplementation; the applicant shall have sixty (60) days to resubmit.

9.2 For complete applications, the Committee may:

- (a) Conduct independent verification of credentials, publications, and claimed achievements;

- (b) Solicit confidential references from individuals familiar with the applicant's work;
- (c) Invite the applicant for a virtual interview, if further clarification is required.

9.3 The Committee shall prepare a written assessment and recommendation for the Board of Directors within sixty (60) days of accepting a complete application.

Article 10: Decision

10.1 The IAPUC Board of Directors shall review the Committee's recommendation at its next scheduled meeting and render a decision. The Board may:

- (a) **Approve** the application and confer Excellent Membership;
- (b) **Defer** the application pending additional information or further achievements;
- (c) **Decline** the application, with written reasons provided.

10.2 A decision to approve requires a two-thirds majority of Board members present and voting. The decision of the Board is final and not subject to appeal, except on grounds of procedural irregularity.

10.3 Successful applicants shall be notified in writing and awarded the **E.IAPUC** designation upon payment of the first-year membership fee.

Chapter 4: Rights, Privileges, and Obligations

Article 11: Rights and Privileges

11.1 Excellent Members enjoy all rights of Regular Members, plus the following exclusive privileges:

- (a) **Post-Nominal Designation:** The right to use "E.IAPUC" after their name in professional contexts, signifying the highest level of individual recognition by the Association.
- (b) **Formal Recognition:** Public acknowledgment at IAPUC Annual Conferences, including listing in the official program and on the Association's website.
- (c) **Priority Governance Roles:** Priority consideration for appointment as Chair or member of IAPUC Standing Committees, task forces, and advisory panels.
- (d) **Global Representation:** Eligibility to represent IAPUC at international forums, conferences, and meetings with governments and partner organizations, subject to Board authorization.
- (e) **Mentorship Opportunities:** Invitation to mentor Regular Members and emerging professionals through IAPUC's structured mentorship programs.
- (f) **Exclusive Events:** Access to closed-door roundtables, leadership retreats, and strategy sessions with IAPUC senior leadership.

Article 12: Obligations

12.1 Excellent Members shall:

- (a) Pay the annual Excellent Membership fee by the due date;
- (b) Uphold the IAPUC Constitution, Code of Ethics, and all applicable regulations;
- (c) Actively contribute to the advancement of IAPUC's mission, including through participation in at least one IAPUC activity or initiative per biennium;
- (d) Refrain from any conduct that may bring the Association or the E.IAPUC designation into disrepute;
- (e) Promptly notify IAPUC of any change in circumstances that may affect their eligibility or standing.

12.2 Excellent Members who fail to meet these obligations may be subject to review by the Membership Credentials Committee, which may recommend suspension or revocation of the designation to the Board of Directors.

Chapter 5: Fee Structure

Article 13: Annual Fee

13.1 The annual fee for Excellent Membership is **USD 200**.

13.2 Fee reductions are available for:

- (a) Excellent Members residing in Least Developed Countries (as classified by the United Nations): annual fee reduced to **USD 100**.
- (b) Retired Excellent Members who are no longer in full-time employment and who have held Excellent Membership for at least five (5) years: annual fee reduced to **USD 50**, upon application.

13.3 Fees are payable annually in advance. Failure to pay within ninety (90) days of the due date may result in suspension of membership rights until payment is received.

Chapter 6: Maintenance, Suspension, and Revocation

Article 14: Maintenance of Status

14.1 Excellent Membership is a lifelong designation, subject to continued compliance with these Standards and the payment of annual fees.

14.2 Every five (5) years, Excellent Members shall submit a brief updated profile summarizing their ongoing engagement with private higher education and contributions to the IAPUC community. This is a reporting requirement, not a re-

evaluation, unless the Membership Credentials Committee identifies grounds for review.

Article 15: Suspension and Revocation

15.1 The Board of Directors may, upon recommendation of the Membership Credentials Committee, suspend or revoke Excellent Membership if the member:

- (a) Is found to have provided fraudulent or misleading information in their application;
- (b) Is convicted of a serious criminal offense or is subject to professional license revocation;
- (c) Engages in conduct that severely damages the reputation of IAPUC or the integrity of the E.IAPUC designation.

15.2 Before any adverse action is taken, the member shall be given written notice of the grounds, an opportunity to respond in writing, and, if requested, a hearing before the Committee. The decision of the Board shall be final.

Chapter 7: Supplementary Provisions

Article 16: Relationship with Other IAPUC Documents

These Standards operate in conjunction with:

- The IAPUC Constitution;
- The IAPUC Membership Eligibility and Admission Standards;
- The IAPUC Individual Membership Application Guidelines;
- The IAPUC Academic Ethics and Integrity Code;
- The IAPUC-IQA Accreditation Mark Usage and Brand Management Code.

Article 17: Interpretation and Amendment

17.1 These Standards are interpreted by the IAPUC Board of Directors.

17.2 Amendments may be proposed by the Membership Credentials Committee or by any ten (10) Excellent Members via petition. Adoption requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Board.

Article 18: Effective Date and Transitional Provisions

18.1 These Standards take effect upon approval by the IAPUC Board of Directors.

18.2 Individuals who held an equivalent distinguished membership designation under any prior IAPUC framework shall be automatically recognized as Excellent Members and may use the E.IAPUC designation, provided they meet the ethical requirements

of Article 6 and pay the applicable fee.

Approval

Role	Name / Title	Date
Prepared by	IAPUC Membership Standards Working Group	May 2026
Reviewed by	IAPUC Board of Directors	Pending
Approved by	IAPUC Board of Directors	Pending

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