

Membership Status of the Fingerprint Society

Present Status

At this moment within the Society we have 3 current paying memberships:

Associate: Individuals who have an interest in fingerprints but do not meet the criteria as laid out for Members (MFS) and/or Fellows (FFS). They do not have voting rights, cannot take on any roles within the Society and do not have any share of the Society. Rule 10

Member: Membership of the Society is open to persons having successfully completed an accredited initial fingerprint course and remaining in fingerprint work whilst employed in the Police or Government Service. However, where a Full Member or Fellow is posted to other duties within the Police Service and no longer employed in fingerprint work, he/she will be allowed to retain membership of this Society. Members retiring from or leaving the Police Service/Government Service may retain their membership of the Society on payment of the full annual subscription continuing their previously recognised status and retain full voting rights.

Other than in circumstances to be decided by the Executive Sub-Committee a person may not re-join the Society. Rule 3

Fellow: On achieving the accepted National Standard in his/her country of origin and becoming a recognised expert in that country's Law Courts and proving the same to the satisfaction of the Executive Sub-Committee a Member shall become a Fellow and his/her name shall appear on a list drawn up by the Society. Rule 8

Both MFS & FFS have full rights within the Society.

We also have subscribers to Fingerprint Whorld; this document does not intend to address this group.

Future Considerations

The membership of the Society is now growing more diverse, the roles of the traditional fingerprint officers and fingerprint bureaux becoming more multi-disciplined, the CSI effect now happening in universities and a large student population within the forensic academic arena, gives the Society the chance to increase both the diversity of its membership and the potential to expand its corporate knowledge.

It also brings with it possible problems of individual(s) status or titles afforded to our membership and to the qualification/experience levels required to achieve these.

Membership Status Proposals

Here I would like to outline my suggested membership ranking system and the rules around each status.

Associate member: This should be maintained under its present format and covered by rules 10.1 to 10.6.

Student membership:

Qualification:

1. The applicant must be attending a recognised university or college on a forensic course.
2. They must have a supporting letter from the head of the department running the course on appropriate headed note paper.
3. They must outline the timeline of their course.
4. They must apply by using a recognised form and be proposed by a current member.
5. They will not need to pay a joining fee; the annual subscription should be £10 less than the current subscription fee, reviewable as the need might occur.
6. At the end of their course they may join as either an Associate Member, meeting the requirements of any current rules or as a Full Member, fulfilling these criteria.
7. On joining as an Associate or Full Member they will not be required to pay a joining fee.
8. If the applicant does not join as a Full or Associate Member at the end of their course or next renewal date, they will then be required to pay the full joining fee in line with the rules at that time.
9. Rules 10.5 & 10.6 will also apply to the Student Membership status.
10. The Society's Committee reserves the right to consider all applicants suitability to join the Society.

Member:

Qualifications:

1. The applicant must be employed within the personal identification field as considered appropriate by the Committee.
2. Each must have a supporting letter from the head of their department on official headed paper.

3. Each must have completed nationally recognised training in their field with supporting certification or be about to undertake or currently doing so.
4. Each must apply by using the recognised form and be proposed by a current member of good standing.
5. Each will need to pay a joining fee and the current annual subscription on submission of application.
6. The current rules will apply to Member status.
7. Each may use the suffix MFS
8. The Committee reserves the right to consider *all* applicants' suitability to join the Society.

Fellow of the Fingerprint Society

Following from the AGM and the suggestion of Eric Sahota, to look at a point scoring system to attain Fellowship of the Society, here is my interpretation:

1. Point is scored for every year of membership and for attendance at 1 day seminars.
2. Points for attendance at full Conference. 1 point only for 1 full day. Having an article published in the Journal. or presented at the Conference/Seminar
3. Points for being Conference/Seminar organiser. 1 point for those assisting.
4. Points for completing a significant piece of research or made a significant contribution to there discipline. These will need to be nominated to the Committee for approval.
5. Points for 3 years on the committee. If an individual serves on the committee for less than 3 years it is one point for each full year.

To attain fellowship the individual needs to acquire 20 points. The points will only accrue by maintaining **continual** membership. Once Fellowship is attained The point for each year of membership will be updated by the Membership Secretary. Conference/Seminar organisers will supply the Membership Secretary with members who assisted, attended and who have given presentations. The Editor of the Journal will supply to the Membership Secretary those members that have contributed to the Journal. Points will not be awarded to student or associate members.

A couple of examples:

1. You have been a member for 1 year; you have attended the conference and have renewed membership for a second year; points scored for that year 3.
2. You have been to conference, had an article published in the Journal and renewed your membership 5 points.

Persons who currently hold the title of Fellow will retain their title with continued membership. A lapse in membership would mean, when re-joining they could only join as a member.

Each year at the Gala dinner we will have a formal announcement of the new Fellows and those in attendance will be presented with a certificate. In the case of those who do not attend they will be on the roll call and receive a certificate through the post. All new Fellows will be noted in the Journal after the Annual Conference.

This is intended as a starting point for discussion but I think if we are to reflect the current and ever changing landscape of fingerprints/personal identification we must clearly demonstrate that in the status of our membership. We cannot say someone be denied Fellow status simply because he/she is not a recognised fingerprint expert. If we are to encourage more pro-active involvement in the Society, the status of Fellow will reward those who do make a contribution. That is why I would like to retain it.

I think it may require a bit of work at the start but would be beneficial in the long run.

For your consideration and opinion

Robert Doak

Chairperson of the Fingerprint Society

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