

# International Society for Quantum Gravity

## - Internal Guidelines -

November 5, 2024

### 1. **Conditions for membership: ordinary members.**

Researchers with a track record of scientific contributions in Quantum Gravity, evidenced for instance by publications in established scientific journals, are eligible for membership. Junior scientists/scholars undertaking advanced study in Quantum Gravity are also eligible, subject to evidence of their studies.

Membership applications are submitted through the association's website and evaluated by the Council or its designated deputies, whose rights and obligations are specified in the Internal Guidelines. Applications should include evidence of scientific contributions or advanced study in Quantum Gravity. For junior applicants, the application may be accompanied by a letter of reference from a more senior scientist. Rejection decisions may be appealed to the Council.

The Council may periodically ask members to reconfirm their wish to remain members, and to reconfirm their contact information. A member who does not respond after reminders by the Council may, at the discretion of the Council, have their membership suspended, but will be eligible to reapply. These checks may happen yearly.

The Council may suspend members or permanently revoke their membership if their actions are deemed significantly harmful to the mission, objectives or values of the Society. Decisions can be appealed, in which case the case is brought to the General Assembly and resolved by its vote.

Members are encouraged to advertise the ISQG and its activities, but cannot act as spokespersons or representatives of the ISQG.

### 2. **Membership fees**

At the moment, there are no membership fees for ordinary members.

### 3. **Thematic Sections**

Thematic Sections focus on different aspects of Quantum Gravity. The Thematic Sections cannot be devoted to specific Quantum Gravity approaches or formalisms, or to excessively specialized research issues; rather, they must promote collaborative activities involving broad sectors of the Quantum Gravity community, spanning a number of approaches.

The initial thematic areas, as proposed by the Founding Committee, are: 1) Conceptual foundations; 2) Mathematical structures; 3) Theoretical Developments; 4) Phenomenology. This proposal is subject to approval by the General Assembly.

The creation or dissolution of a Thematic Section can be proposed by the Society's members at any time; a proposal should be put forward by at least 30 members and approved by a majority vote by the General Assembly.

The creation or dissolution of a Thematic Section can be proposed also by the Council at any time, and approved by the General Assembly.

The Society's members indicate, at the time of their membership application, to which of the existing Thematic Sections they want to be associated; association to several or no Sections is possible; this indication can be modified at any time, by notifying the Council.

Each Thematic Section has a Coordinating Board of at least 3 members. The coordinating board is elected among and by the Society's members who have chosen to be associated with the given Thematic Section, with the election taking place in conjunction with the Council general election, and it has the same terms of appointment as Council members. Candidates for a Thematic Section Board are proposed by the Council, with the same rules for nominations as for new Council candidates. Members of the Council cannot be also members of the Coordinating Board of a Thematic Section.

The Coordinating Board will then elect a representative and may further organize its own activities as deemed appropriate. This representative can attend the meetings of the Council, without voting rights.

The Coordinating Board coordinates, supervises and promotes activities in the respective domain, proposed or carried out by its associated members. Decisions of the Coordinating Board of each Thematic Section, taken by majority vote, need to be communicated to the Council, responsible for the coordination of activities of the whole Society, to become operative, but do not need the explicit approval of the Council. The Council, on the other hand, can veto a specific activity promoted by the Coordinating Board. Such veto can be appealed by the Coordinating Board, in which case the decision is deferred to the General Assembly.

Funds can be raised by the Thematic Sections on their own initiative and used for a specific activity, and will be labelled in the Society's budget as such. Unused funds will then become available to the Society for other initiatives, but will be prioritarily (but not exclusively) used by the same Thematic Section that has raised them.

#### **4. Activity Teams**

The creation or dissolution of an Activity Team can be decided by the Council, and can be proposed by the Society's members, at any time; the Council will make a decision on any such proposal, which can be appealed by a motion of the General Assembly.

The ISQG Activity Teams are each composed of the number of members considered suitable for the planned activities. They are nominated by the Council after a call open to all the Society's members. Calls should be renewed every two years, but additional calls can be issued when the necessity arises, at the discretion of the Council.

While regular rotation of Activity Team members is encouraged, renominations of Activity Team members are possible. The Council will incorporate considerations on equal representation (gender, geographic location, scientific background) in their nomination process.

Each Activity Team selects a representative, which attends the Council meetings, without voting rights.

Each Activity Team focuses on a specific type of activities and objectives, rather than scientific themes. A plan for activities does not need to be explicitly approved by the Council, but can be vetoed by it. The activity team organizes the activities autonomously from the Council and the Thematic Sections, respecting the need for appropriate coordination with other planned activities of the Society.

Funds can be raised by the Activity Teams on their own initiative and used for a specific activity, and will be labelled in the Society's budget as such. Unused funds will then become

available to the Society for other initiatives, but will be prioritarily (but not exclusively) used by the same Activity Team that has raised them.

## **5. General Assembly**

As specified in the Constitution, an ordinary General Assembly meeting is held yearly. In years when this is possible, it will be held in person, at an ISQG-sponsored scientific meeting. Otherwise it may be held online. All members may attend and the possibility of online participation, including for in-person meetings, is ensured by the Council.

## **6. Transition procedure from existing ISQG structure and Founding Committee**

The existing Founding Committee is considered as the incumbent Council in the first general election to take place at the first General Assembly meeting or when the General Assembly decides at such meeting.

The Council can have a higher or lower number of members than stated in Article 12 of the Constitution for the first 2 years, thus allowing existing members of the Founding Committee who want to serve in the Council to do so. Members of the Founding Committee who do not wish to be part of the new Council will stay in an advisory role only, unless they decline to do so.

The existing Activity Teams are considered as the ones proposed by the Council and are therefore subject to approval by the General Assembly.

The Founding Committee is also in charge of making a first proposal for the Thematic Sections, to be voted on by the General Assembly, and to circulate all relevant information to participate in all the votes among the Society's members.

The Founding Committee will also propose Society members who will serve on the Thematic Section coordinating boards for two years.