



ISACS Membership Structure

Update Proposals | AGM 2025

Article 5 of the ISACS constitution states that we may “by ordinary resolution in general meeting, add to or otherwise alter the number and types of classes of members”. We are proposing two changes to the classes of members, to be considered for ordinary resolution at the ISACS AGM 2025.

Proposal 1

Replace the “Pre-Professional” membership level with “Associate”

The current **Pre-Professional** membership level is described as:

For students (must be 18+ years old) or those just finding their feet and have not yet made any income from your practice.

We propose to rename **Pre-Professional** to **Associate**, and update the description to the following text:

For individuals who are connected to the circus, street arts and spectacle sector but are not professional CSAS artists. These may be emerging artists, students (must be 18+ years old), hobbyists, technicians, or anyone else whose work is related to or supportive of the CSAS sector.

The price of the membership level will remain at the current level, €25 per year.

Why make this change?

1. Challenge assumptions

The current naming and description of **Pre-professional** assumes that all individual members are either professional CSAS artists, or are working towards becoming professionals. This is not always true, for a variety of reasons.

2. Increase inclusivity

All individuals are welcome at ISACS regardless of their role, circumstance, or status in the Circus, Street Arts, and Spectacle world. With this change, we aim to offer an appropriate and appropriately-priced membership level for those who may be unsure if ISACS is for them, or which bracket they fit into.

3. Encourage membership upgrades

Some members stay at the **Pre-Professional** membership for many years, despite moving into a full-time CSAS career, or occupying a respected, valued place in the community among other CSAS professionals. With this change, along with our new suggested criteria



for **Professional** membership, we aim to encourage these members to consider themselves to be professionals, and to consider upgrading to a higher membership level accordingly.

What does this mean for me?

If you are a current **Pre-Professional** member:

- The name of your membership will be updated to **Associate**.
- The price of your membership (€25 per year) will not change.
- Membership levels are not publicly displayed on member profiles on the ISACS website, so this change will not be visible to anyone viewing your profile.

If you are a current **Professional** member, or an **Organisation** member:

- Nothing will change.

Proposal 2

Create a new “Affiliate Organisation” membership level

Add a new ISACS membership level, called **Affiliate Organisation**, described as follows:

[For partners, venues, local authorities, and other organisations that wish to support the circus, street arts and spectacle sectors.](#)

The membership will be priced at €100 per year.

The name “Affiliate” was chosen in line with similar offerings from our peer representative networks, such as Performing Arts Forum’s Affiliate membership.

Why make this change?

1. Welcome our partners

As ISACS and the sector have grown, we have increasingly developed connections and partnerships with organisations who are **not** primarily working in CSAS, but still have a connection to the ISACS world. Examples include the arts centres who host our residency programmes, the local authorities who partner with us on our Circus Explored programme, and our peer organisations representing other art forms. We want to give them a way to connect with us as members, and have a presence on our website and at our events.

2. Extend our reach

We’ve seen an increase in the number and diversity of organisations reaching out to us to enquire about membership, such as county councils, college departments, family resource



centres, and more. We want to open the ISACS network to all such interested organisations, to expand our reach and help us grow the presence of CSAS in Ireland.

3. Increase affordability

The current Organisation membership levels, from Small to Super-Large, are priced based on annual turnover. These turnover brackets are based on turnover for CSAS organisations. A prospective Affiliate might, according to their overall turnover, fit into the Super-Large category, but their CSAS connection may be much smaller. By offering a dedicated **Affiliate** membership level, we offer a much more affordable way to join the network.

4. Develop new revenue stream

Membership revenues help sustain the ISACS organisation. As we grow, so too does our operational overhead. By opening membership to entirely new groups of organisations, we open a potential new revenue stream from those organisations, allowing us to do more work, better.

Why €100 per year?

Potential **Affiliates** have significantly higher budgets than our **Small Organisation** members do, so we are pricing it above **Small Organisation** (€80 per year). We are keeping the cost lower than some peer representative organisations (e.g. Performing Arts Forum's Affiliate membership, which is €250 per year) to keep the barrier low and encourage signups.

What does this mean for me?

Nothing. There will be no changes to any existing membership levels.