



ASSOCIATION DE LA SOMMELLERIE INTERNATIONALE

How to become Member of ASI

Preamble

Membership in ASI “is open to all national sommelier associations that accept the obligations contained in the By-Laws, the Rules of Procedure, the Code of Ethics of ASI and, in the judgment of ASI, are able to carry out these obligations”, with the exception that only one association is allowed to represent its country as a full member in ASI (article 5-1 of ASI by-laws). National associations are admitted to membership in ASI by decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Executive Board supported by the By-Laws-Committee.

The establishment, registration and/or incorporation of a national association is an act that only national states or governments may grant. ASI will only consider an application for admission from an association that has been granted legal not-for-profit association status by its government, non-denominational and non-political.

As an organization of independent associations, ASI may admit a new association to its membership. Being a member of ASI generally implies readiness to promote the sommelier profession and build and maintain relations with the other member associations.

ASI has two consecutive levels of membership: Applicant and Active Member.

First step is always to become part of the **College of Applicants**.

To become a member of the ASI, applicants must represent a country that is not represented in the ASI. They must apply in accordance the ASI By-Laws, Rules of Procedure, and ASI Code of Ethics.

Members and applicants shall be represented before the bodies of the ASI by natural persons, either their legal representative in office or any other person duly designated and authorized to do so. They are responsible for the behavior of their own adherents/members and for their compliance with the ASI By-Laws (statutes), Rules of Procedure and Code of Ethics.

Any candidature for becoming part of the “College of Applicants” can only be decided upon during a General Assembly of ASI, which takes place yearly. The candidature must be presented personally (unless exceptional circumstances is shown) during the General Assembly by the applicant national association’s President or an applicant national association’s Board member with proxy from the President. The representative will be required to make a short introduction to the association’s activities and motivation for joining ASI to members at the assembly. Additionally, the final and officially certificated documents listed below must be submitted well in advance, at least four (4) weeks before the General Assembly, to the By-Laws-Committee of ASI.

To be prepared in time for the General Assembly of ASI, the applicant association should get in contact with the By-Laws-Committee of ASI as early as possible to review the requirements for application, work on a roadmap for the application, clarify details and, if necessary, be able to complete any necessary changes in the regulations or documents of the candidature association.

The continental Vice-President of ASI and/or a sponsor country should also be involved in the guidance process as soon as possible during the application process, to make valuable contributions to assist the applicant association.

During the period as an Applicant (2 years), the By-Laws-Committee, the continental Vice President and/or the sponsoring country will observe and consult the new national association. On-site inspections may be conducted, for example during national general assemblies or competitions, in order to advise and to verify the qualifications of the applicant association. The duration of the on-site inspection will depend on the size of the association. The applicant association will assume the responsibility and charges for the visit from the time the official(s) of ASI arrive in the country. Travel costs to the country will be covered by ASI.

To achieve **Active Membership** status, the Applicant must be invited by the Executive Board of ASI to apply for this upgrade at the following General Assembly. If, following an analysis of the Applicant's situation, the Board of ASI approves admission as an Active Member, the recommendation is presented to the General Assembly for consideration. A two-thirds majority vote in favor of the recommendation is required.

If after this two years probationary period, the Executive Board of ASI does not deem the applicant ready for advancing to full membership within ASI, it may extend the period in the college of applicants with one year maximum. During this period the regional VP will inspect and assist the applicant in order to advance to a state of readiness. If after this extended period the applicant is still not ready to be invited by the board to present and apply for upgrade at General Assembly, the applicant loses its status and leaves the College of Applicants.

Requirements for the admission in the "College of Applicants" of ASI

Documents to submit to the By-Laws-Committee / the ASI Board:

Motivation letter for becoming a member of ASI Including general comments on the status of the profession of sommelier in the applicant country and general information on sommellerie training institutions and programs.

Also: Why do you want to become a member? What do you expect to receive in return?

By-laws, internal regulations and registration of the association, in English and/or French.

One of the translations and the registration must be officially certified or notarized. The By-Laws and Rules of Procedure must be in conformity with those of ASI.

Crucial points are:

1. The applicant national association must be officially registered as non-profit (NPO), non-denominational and non-political organization, by their national government or a comparable institution.
2. The Applicant national association is required to sign off the ASI Code of Ethics.
3. The Board including the President must be set up with a two-third (2/3) majority by professional sommeliers* .
4. Only professional sommeliers may have voting rights in the national General Assemblies.
5. The President and the Board members must be democratically elected by the General Assembly of the national association in a regular interval, not exceeding four (4) years. We advise a maximum of three terms for presidents of national associations.

These points must be clearly specified in the by-laws of the association.

Submission of information of the applicant national association:

- a. A list of the national association Board members with specification of professional training and experience, nationality, current role and email address.
- b. An overview on how many members the association has, including a segmentation in member categories, especially differentiating professional and non-professional members.

Support of an Active Member of ASI (“sponsoring member”)

A national association of sommeliers already an Active Member of the ASI (for over three years) introduces and supports the applicant.

Costs and fees

The applicant association will be required to be represented in person by their president (or proxy) at the General Assembly where the vote for their acceptance will take place. Costs for attendance, including travel, accommodation, and proportional participation costs, are for the account of the applicant.

Once accepted in the College of Applicants, the applicant association will be allowed to participate in the General Assemblies of ASI without voting rights. The association will pay an annual membership fee equal to 50% of the current Active Members’ annual fee, by the date defined by ASI, but usually only from the financial year following the GA.

The association will be required to pay 100% of the annual membership fee when it becomes an Active Member after the vote of the General Assembly. However, if the association has already paid 50% of the fees for the current year, as provided above, it shall only be required to pay the balance amount.

* As defined by Resolution OIV-ECO 474-2014 on www.oiv.int