

Academic Forum on ISDS

Membership Policy

We welcome applications for membership in the ISDS Academic Forum, which works in parallel to UNCITRAL Working Group III. We are committed to creating an inclusive and diverse group whose membership includes those who are often under-represented in similar fora. We seek members with diverse academic interests, scholarly backgrounds, and views on ISDS.

Requirements

1. Prospective members should have recognized *competence* and knowledge in international investment law and dispute settlement, or related areas in which their expertise could contribute to a more comprehensive and thoughtful appreciation of investment law and adjudication.
2. Members should have an *academic position* at either a university or a research center. Ph.D Fellows and students are not eligible for membership, save in unusual circumstances, though they are welcome as collaborators on Forum projects. Consideration is currently being given to establishing an ISDS Academic Forum for Young Scholars.

Priority

Priority will be given to applicants whose participation complements the expertise of existing forum members. We are particularly keen to enhance the diversity of the Forum along multiple dimensions. To that end, we especially encourage application from women, individuals of colour, nationals of states of the Global South, promising junior scholars, and individuals with views on ISDS that are not well reflected in Forum. To engage fully with the reform process, the Forum will also require a greater number of members with knowledge of other international adjudicatory institutions.

Application process

1. Prospective members can apply through the online [Application Form: https://nettskjema.no/a/116542](https://nettskjema.no/a/116542)
2. Membership applications will be approved by the Membership Committee, composed of two Coordinating Committee members and two other members of the Steering Committee. In the event, that there is not a majority, the decision shall be made by the whole Steering Committee.
3. Upon positive acceptance of an application, an applicant will become formally a member upon completion of the online [Disclosure Form: https://nettskjema.no/a/isds-af](https://nettskjema.no/a/isds-af)

Part-time academic scholars

1) As a general rule, a full-time academic position is expected for membership in the Academic Forum. This is particularly the case given the emergence of a Practitioner's Forum which is oriented towards practitioners.

2) Applicants with a part-time or adjunct position will be accepted (or positively evaluated) if they can demonstrate that they will assist the Academic Forum in reaching many of its goals, for example through: (a) research, methodological or administrative competences that are not already found within the Forum's membership; (b) enhancement of gender and/or geographic diversity; and (c) provision of high quality analytical and objective analysis.

3) It is to be recalled that a decision on membership is ultimately a matter of discretion for the Steering Committee. There is no automatic right of membership in the Forum, even if an applicant is a full-time academic. The achievement of the goals of the Academic Forum remains the ultimate concern

*Approved by the Steering Committee, 6 May 2019
Updated 15 March 2020 to include paragraph on part-time academic scholars*