

## ABSW Membership

### Information about fees, terms, and cancellation rights

#### Membership subscription, fees and cancellation

You can join the Association of British Science Writers (ABSW) by filling out a form and setting a payment method on the [ABSW website](https://www.absw.org.uk). Members will be granted a user account where they can change personal and subscription details.

ABSW has four membership categories with different subscription fees:

- **Full member** – a science journalist or a science writer working as a freelancer or a staff writer/editor, when science writing provides a substantial part of their income. **Fee: £50**
- **Associate member** – for people who work in a field that advances public awareness of science and technology, such as public relations, and are interested in science writing. Or, people who are science writers, but this work provides less than a substantial part of their income. **Fee: £45**
- **Student member** – must be aged 18 or over and studying in higher education, or undertaking further education towards a vocational qualification in journalism or media. Students are still eligible for student membership for up to two years after graduation or completion of their course. **Fee: £25**
- **Life member** – category by nomination only. ABSW board and Annual General Meeting (AGM) are entitled to appoint as a Life Member anyone who has done outstanding service to science writing. **No fee**

If you have doubts about your eligibility or which membership you should apply for, please contact [info@absw.org.uk](mailto:info@absw.org.uk).

ABSW's **preferred payment method is direct debit**, as this means less administrative cost and attracts the smallest fee. Payment can also be made by **repeat card (automatic annual payment from your debit or credit card) or manually** (BACS/Standing Order). To **update a payment method** (create a direct debit, move to repeat card or update your repeat card payment to a valid debit/credit card), members should log in to "My account" (located in the upper right corner of the website) and manage their "Membership".

Full or Student members struggling to pay for ABSW membership can get in touch with ABSW to request support from the hardship fund. Decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

## Renewal

Membership subscriptions **renew every 12 months**. Members get a reminder email 14 days before the renewal date. Members can update their payment method (as described above) when they receive a reminder, cancel their membership, or let it be charged automatically from their direct debit, repeat card or standing order. Those who pay manually but without a standing order will need to arrange to pay by BACS.

If the fee can't be collected automatically or is not paid by BACS, the membership subscription becomes **overdue**. Members will get a reminder email on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> day after the subscription becomes overdue. 30 days after the subscription becomes overdue the membership **expires**, and people no longer have access to membership benefits.

## Cancellation

Members can cancel their membership at any time, but will be asked if they wish to cancel immediately or only at the renewal date to enjoy the benefits they are still entitled to.

Cancellation is free, but it doesn't entitle the member to a refund (excepted in the 14 days immediately after the subscription was made - cooling off period).

To cancel membership, members complete a [cancellation form](#) through the ABSW website. Membership cancellation is not automatic as ABSW needs to ensure it follows regulation regarding data retention.

Members are asked to provide feedback about ABSW membership and to indicate if they wish their data to be deleted or retained and if retained whether they wish to continue receiving ABSW news and updates or other newsletters available at that time.

Any member or newsletter subscriber can ask at any time to have their data and contact details corrected or deleted from the ABSW database by email to [info@absw.org.uk](mailto:info@absw.org.uk).

## **Terms and benefits**

Members understand, respect, and follow ABSW's [mission and vision](#), and are compliant with ABSW [policies](#), including but not exclusively harassment and privacy policies.

Membership benefits are showcased on the ABSW website (and below).

### ABSW Board

Full and Life members who have a valid membership subscription by the date of the AGM are entitled to vote, to be elected as a board member, and to nominate a board member. Associate and Student members can attend AGM but cannot vote or be elected. However, Associate and Student members can be co-opted by the Executive Board.

### Members exclusive area

The ABSW website has members only content. In a dedicated [Members area](#), they will find how to join ABSW discussion and networking groups, find the directory of members, get access to scientific journals, check resources such as job offers, grants, other opportunities, and more.

### Networking events and training

ABSW members have access to exclusive events, free or heavily discounted activities, and access to recordings of the sessions. The events calendar is published [here](#).

### Showcase your work

ABSW recognises, celebrates and rewards excellence in science writing and journalism through [annual awards](#). Awards are open for works published within the UK or Ireland and are intended for British and Irish-based journalists and writers, or those working for audiences in these two countries. ABSW members pay nothing to enter the awards, as it is a benefit of membership, while non-members are required to pay a fee of £55 per category entered.

Members are also invited to enter their best articles for the [ABSW Monthly Showcase](#) and to send their [book details](#) to be promoted on the ABSW website.

### Mentoring scheme

This scheme is for people in the early stages (typically the first 5 years) of their career in writing or journalism who will be matched with senior professionals. Mentees and mentors must be ABSW members.

If members have any questions regarding ABSW actions, their membership details or benefits, they should send an email to [info@absw.org.uk](mailto:info@absw.org.uk).

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