



2027 SUBSCRIPTION FEES

1. IAH has used differential membership fee bands for many years, offering reduced rates to individuals and organisations in countries and territories not classified by the World Bank as “high income”. The World Bank groups economies as Low, Lower-middle, Upper-middle or High income. IAH reflects these groupings through four country and territory categories: A, B, C and D.
2. An additional 'Intermediate' category was introduced in 2023. This temporary three-year measure was designed to ease the transition in membership fees for countries moving from the World Bank's Upper-middle-income classification to High-income status. Several countries entered this category in 2024 and are scheduled to move into the High-income category in 2027, including Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and Poland. No changes are proposed to this transition process.
3. IAH membership fees for each income category, excluding the temporary intermediate category, have not changed since 2019. During this period, UK consumer price inflation has risen by around 30%, significantly reducing the real value of IAH's membership income. It has been possible to maintain fees at current levels because IAH has benefited from a combination of factors: some countries have moved into higher income bands; spending was lower during the COVID-19 years; some face-to-face Executive meetings have moved online, reducing costs; and recent IAH Congresses have produced strong financial returns, including donations to central IAH funds.
4. Looking ahead, inflationary pressures are increasing IAH's costs associated with providing Hydrogeology Journal (HJ) access to members. Springer Nature has indicated that its charges to IAH will rise in 2027 for both printed and online journal access. The projected increase is shown in Appendix 1.
5. We do not propose passing the increase in HJ costs on to members in Low- and Lower-middle-income countries. Also, Associate Student Members would be unaffected, as their membership is free and does not include journal access. For all other members, we propose passing on the full increase from 2027 onwards. The proposed fee structure is set out in Appendix 2. The proposed increases are limited to recovering the additional Hydrogeology Journal costs and do not seek to recover the wider impact of inflation on IAH's operating costs. We recognise that members may hold differing views on these proposals and therefore welcome feedback.
6. Finally, we propose keeping Corporate Membership (the red scheme on our website) at its current annual fee. We also propose withdrawing the Corporate Supporter scheme (the blue scheme), as it has had limited uptake and has caused some confusion. We propose that the Gold Sponsorship scheme should also be retained at the current fee rate, but reviewed in 2027, as it has also had limited uptake.

Tim Besien, Executive Manager

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APPENDIX 1: Comparison of Springer Nature Charges to IAH for journal access

Subscription Type	2023 Contract	Draft 2027 Contract	Change (€)	Change (%)
Online access only	€14.50 per member per year	€15.50 per member per year	+€1.00	+6.9%
Print subscription	€29.00 per subscribing member per year	€31.00 per subscribing member per year	+€2.00	+6.9%

APPENDIX 2: Current and proposed fees

IAH Fees 2026	D (High)	Intermediate	C (Upper-middle)	B (Lower-middle)	A (Low)
Member	€ 88	€ 68	€ 54	€ 46	€ 36
Online Member	€ 78	€ 58	€ 44	€ 36	€ 26
Student Member	€ 30	€ 26	€ 24	€ 22	€ 20
Student Online Member	€ 20	€ 18	€ 16	€ 14	€ 12
Associate Student Member	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0
Retired Member	€ 40	€ 32	€ 27	€ 24	€ 22
Corporate Member	€ 495	€ 400	€ 305	€ 260	€ 195
Gold Sponsor	€ 1,875				

Proposed IAH Fees 2027 onwards	D (High)	Intermediate	C (Upper-middle)	B (Lower-middle)	A (Low)
Member	€ 90	€ 70	€ 56	€ 46	€ 36
Online Member	€ 79	€ 59	€ 45	€ 36	€ 26
Student Member	€ 32	€ 28	€ 26	€ 22	€ 20
Student Online Member	€ 21	€ 19	€ 17	€ 14	€ 12
Associate Student Member	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0
Retired Member	€ 41	€ 33	€ 28	€ 24	€ 22
Corporate Member	€ 495	€ 400	€ 305	€ 260	€ 195
Gold Sponsor	€ 1,875				