

About membership of the Society of Editors (Vic)

There are two categories of membership of the Society of Editors (Victoria) - full membership and associate membership.

Full membership

Benefits

All members (whether full or associate members) of the society receive:

- advice about employment opportunities through our regular e-list to members of job advertisements and other information
- eleven issues of the society's newsletter each year
- discounts on training courses and workshops run by the society
- a program of monthly meetings with guest speakers
- discounts at selected bookshops
- special events as advised.

As well, full members are able to vote at annual general meetings and special general meetings, hold office on the committee and have an entry in the *Freelance Register*, an annual directory of freelance editors.

Requirements

Requirements for full membership are either:

- a qualification in editing and publishing, plus one year of full-time industry editing experience, or
- two years of full-time industry editing experience.

Applicants for membership should consider whether or not they meet these requirements before applying for full membership. If they do not, we invite them to apply for associate membership.

Occasionally, people who apply for full membership do not meet these criteria. Common issues are:

- editing has only been a minor part of their work
- the amount of editing they have done is not nearly equivalent to a full-time editing position in industry
- their experience is mainly editing documents that do not necessarily meet publishable standards (such as student theses or voluntary newsletters)
- their editing is within a very narrow and low-level skill range (such as only reviewing simple text, or only rearranging small numbers of paragraphs)
- they misinterpret editing as fact checking, subediting or proofreading.

Sometimes applicants do not provide enough information to enable the committee to make a decision about whether they meet the criteria. In these cases, the committee usually concludes that the person does not meet the requirements for full membership.

Referees

Applicants for full membership need to have two referees. Applicants for associate membership do not need referees.

When asking for referee statements, the committee is primarily concerned to gather evidence that an applicant meets the requirements for full membership.

Referees for full membership do not have to be members of the society.

Referees must be (by virtue of either their supervisory or collegiate duties) in a position to offer an opinion about whether a person meets the requirements of membership, as specified on the application form. Further information about the editor's role can be found on the Institute of Professional Editors website, at http://www.iped-editors.org/files/CASE_editing_standards.pdf.

Referees are contacted to offer an opinion about whether applicants meet the criteria above. Accordingly, referees should have a professional understanding of the scope and boundaries of editing, and be in a position to verify that an applicant either has the qualification, or the experience, as required.

Referees opinions are valuable to the committee in considering (where the experience of the applicant is not clear from the information they have provided on their application) whether:

- the applicant's experience is in editorial work
- whether the experience is the equivalent of two years full time industry experience.

Associate membership

Where an applicant does not meet the requirements for full membership, we suggest they take associate membership until they have gained more experience.

For associate membership, the requirements are an interest in the publishing and associated industries and the society's aims generally.

Applicants for associate membership do not need referees.

We do not require a formal test or audit of an applicant's work for any type of membership.

For further information, please contact Ron Thiele (Membership Secretary) on 0428 391 470 or by email at mail@smartss.com.au.