

## Membership subscription rates 2024

Members are invited to approve the membership subscription rates for 2024 and note that it is recommended that an adjustment should be made to all subscription rates apart from affiliate member rates.

### 1. Background

The Society's membership continues to grow through the combination of a quality membership offering, affordability and the good will of the membership, which acts and speaks very positively when promoting the organisation. To continue developing and growing the membership, we need to ensure we maintain the balance between the cost of what we offer, the price we charge for it, and the value our members place on membership. We also need to consider environmental, economic and political factors and their impact on our members themselves. This year, we propose a marked increase for all categories apart from affiliate members which will remain free, with the lowest fee increases being applied to undergraduate members. This increase ensures that we can continue to offer our members quality via our communications, professional development and engagement opportunities, journals, and events against an increasingly difficult economic backdrop with high inflation having a continued impact on the Society's costs.

### 2. Recent history of Society subscription rate increases

In our recommendations for 2023, we maintained the subscription rate for all categories except for Full Membership, which saw an increase compared to previous years. It was acknowledged at the time that commencing significant digital transformation of the Society's activities in 2022 and 2023 to better serve its international members and those working in sectors such as industry and infection science, would ultimately enhance the range of benefits available to all members wherever they were based. It was therefore anticipated that increases to all member categories would need to be implemented for 2024 in order to support these efforts.

### 3. Proposed subscription rates for 2024

Until the increase to Full Member rate last year, membership rate increases had been relatively modest across all categories. The historical and proposed subscription rates for 2024 are shown in Table 1 and it should be noted that there was no increase applied in 2018, 2020 and 2022. This year, the Society has commenced a transformation of activities in order to better serve our international members and those working in sectors such as industry and infection science. As those activities will lead to an enhanced range of benefits to all members wherever they are based, we propose an increase to all membership fees for 2024 to recognise the higher level of resourcing required to offer the higher quality membership offerings.

**Table 1. Subscription rates over the last seven years.**

	<b>2017 (£)</b>	<b>2018 (£)</b>	<b>2019 (£)</b>	<b>2020 (£)</b>	<b>2021 (£)</b>	<b>2022 (£)</b>	<b>2023 (£)</b>	<b>2024 (£)</b>
<b>Full</b>	77	77	79	79	82	82	92	122
<b>Full Concessionary</b>	35	35	38	38	41	41	41	61
<b>Postgraduate</b>	35	35	38	38	41	41	41	61
<b>Undergraduate</b>	15	15	17	17	18	18	18	25
<b>Affiliate</b>	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

In 2019, we adjusted the rate for members paying by direct debit, to align their rates with those paid by card/cheque paying members.

#### **4. Comparison with other similar organisations**

Across the market, subscription rates have generally increased at a slow rate, reflecting the previous relatively low rate of inflation, at least in the UK (1.5% for 2019/2020) and for some organisations, lower rates of membership growth. However, many of the organisations against which we compare ourselves have increased their rates since 2022, with their most current applicable 2023 rates displayed in [Table 2](#). We anticipate that with global inflation at substantially higher levels than previous years (at 8.7% in the UK at the time of writing), other organisations will be making similar decisions to increase membership rates for next year in order to ensure their long term sustainability.

Table 2. Comparison of 2023 membership rates for different organisations in GBP (£) unless otherwise stated. Organisations shaded in green offer post nominals/fellowships and the higher rates likely recognise significant resourcing needed for a higher value offering; those in grey have historically been at a similar price point to the Society and those in blue have always been priced lower than the Society. Many of the Society's members are also members of these organisations.

	Royal Society of Biology*	Royal Society of Chemistry	Institute of Physics	British Pharmacological Society	Biochemical Society*	American Society for Microbiology* (\$)	Microbiology Society	British Society for Immunology*	Society for Experimental Biology	Applied Microbiology International*
<b>Fellow</b>	199	173	151	175	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Full Member</b>	96–142	150	121	105	88	125–215	92	80	63	80
<b>Concessionary (or equivalent)</b>	48–71	75	36	0	28–49	0–105	41	32	33	N/A
<b>Affiliate (or equivalent)</b>	67	102	109	70	23	0–55	0	N/A**	N/A	6
<b>Postgraduate Student</b>	85	20	N/A	30	28	35	41	25	22	40
<b>Undergraduate Student</b>	15	20	15	0	17	35	18	0	22	12

\*Other organisations to which our members commonly belong.

\*\* Offers discounted membership fees for applicants from Eastern Europe and Africa (£10 per year).