

## Membership subscription rates 2025

Members are invited to approve the membership subscription rates for 2025. A modest increase for 2025 is proposed, and a small fee introduced for Affiliate Membership, but retaining free membership for Affiliate Members based in lower income countries (HINARI list A and B countries).

### 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. In order to continue developing the membership, it is necessary to ensure that the balance is maintained between the cost of the offer, the price charged for it, and the value our members place on membership. Consideration also needs to be given to environmental, economic and political factors and their impact on our members themselves.

This year, it is proposed that the subscription rates for 2025 should increase in line with inflation at 3.4% for Full, Full Concessionary, Postgraduate and Undergraduate Membership. A small fee of £25 is also proposed for Affiliate Membership, but retaining free membership for Affiliate Members based in low income countries as defined by HINARI<sup>1</sup>.

### 2. Recent history of Society subscription rates

In 2024, a marked increase in subscription rates for all membership categories was approved, apart from Affiliate Membership which remained free, with the lowest increase applied to undergraduate members. The increase ensured that we could continue to offer members a quality offering via communications, professional development and engagement opportunities and journals and events against an increasingly difficult economic backdrop with high inflation having a continued impact on the Society's costs. A transformation of activities to better serve our international members and those working in sectors such as industry and infection science was launched, leading to an enhanced range of benefits for all members wherever they are based, and the increase in fees recognised the higher level of resource required for these changes.

### 3. Proposed subscription rates for 2025

The historical membership subscription rates and those proposed for 2025 are shown in Table 1. In light of the more substantial increase to all membership rates in 2024 but being mindful of the continued economic backdrop which the Society is operating in, an increase to membership rates in line with UK inflation at the time of writing in May 2024 (3.4%) is proposed and the introduction of a modest fee for Affiliate Membership.

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<sup>1</sup> Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (<https://www.emro.who.int/information-resources/hinari/hinari.html>) established by the World Health Organisation. The Society already offers those based in HINARI list A and B countries a 100% APC charge discount.

	2018 (£)	2019 (£)	2020 (£)	2021 (£)	2022 (£)	2023 (£)	2024 (£)	2025 (£)
<b>Full</b>	77	79	79	82	82	92	122	126
<b>Full Concessionary</b>	35	38	38	41	41	41	61	63
<b>Postgraduate Student</b>	35	38	38	41	41	41	61	63
<b>Undergraduate Student</b>	15	17	17	18	18	18	25	26
<b>Affiliate (non-HINARI)</b>	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	25
<b>Affiliate (HINARI list A and B)</b>	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

Table 1 Microbiology Society membership subscription rates over last seven years, and proposed rates for 2024.

#### 4. Comparison with other similar organisations

Across the market, subscription rates have generally continued to increase at a modest rate, with many organisations increasing rates by a small percentage across membership categories. Many of the organisations against which we compare ourselves have increased their rates since 2023, with their most current applicable 2024 rates displayed in Table 2 below.

#### 4.1 Comparison of 2024 membership rates for different organisations in GBP (£)

	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>	219	178	155	175	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Full Member</b>	106-156	155	125	105	93	125–215	122	95	63	80
<b>Concessionary (or equivalent)</b>	53-78	77	37	N/A	52	0–105	61	50	33	50
<b>Affiliate (or equivalent)</b>	75	105	113	70	24	0–55	0	N/A**	N/A	6
<b>Postgraduate Student</b>	93	21	N/A	30	30	35	61	30	22	40
<b>Undergraduate Student</b>	20	21	15	Free	18	35	25	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).

Table 2. Comparison of 2024 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.