

Membership Policy

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Membership Benefits

SLSA membership benefits are provided to members who have purchased a membership plan (or have been gifted a plan by the SLSA) for the duration of that plan.

Core membership benefits are:

- a. eligible to be nominated for an SLSA prize
- b. eligible to apply as lead or co-applicant for SLSA grants (research, impact, international collaboration, seminar competition)
- c. eligible to nominate another SLSA member for an SLSA prize
- d. receipt of the SLSA e-bulletin
- e. receipt of the SLSA newsletter
- f. discounted conference registration fee to the SLSA Annual Conference
- g. discounted publications from selected academic publishers
- h. access to members' sections of the website:
 - i. social groups
 - ii. membership directory
 - iii. grant and prize application forms
 - iv. online courses
- i. eligible to apply for bursaries to attend the SLSA Annual Conference
- j. eligible to attend the SLSA Annual Postgraduate Conference
- k. eligible to apply for the SLSA fieldwork grant

Different types of memberships, the cost of each plan, eligibility and the benefits included in that plan are outlined in Appendix 1.

Members must have a paid-up membership plan in order to access these benefits. For membership benefits related to prizes, bursaries, grants and conferences, a paid-up membership plan must be in place from the point of application until (for prizes, bursaries and grants) the decision is announced, or (for conferences) the event has concluded.

Payment of Membership Fees

Membership fees are payable through the online membership database. Any technical difficulties paying membership fees should be resolved by contacting the [SLSA Administrator](#).

Fees paid by standing order or bank transfer will not be accepted from 1 October 2025. If a membership payment is received via the SLSA bank account and the identity of the payee can be determined, then the SLSA will take steps to refund the amount.

Freezing Membership of the SLSA

Members of the SLSA may ask to freeze their membership in some circumstances, such as:

- family leave such as maternity, paternity, adoption or parental leave
- serious illness
- career break
- sudden and substantial changes in economic status
- any other compelling reason for an interruption

To discuss a suspension of membership, please contact the [Membership Secretary](#).

Membership fees are non-refundable, but the renewal date for fees will be pushed back accordingly. Retrospective suspension is not usually permissible.

Membership may be suspended for up to 12 months upon approval of the [Membership Secretary](#), after which time membership must either resume or be cancelled, subject to section 9(4)(b) of the Constitution. Should any query arise, the matter may be brought to the SLSA Board of Trustees for discussion and advice.

Members will continue to receive the SLSA newsletter while their membership is frozen, and will continue to be able to log in to their SLSA account.

During a period of frozen membership, members will not usually be entitled to access benefits that require active membership during that period, such as applying for SLSA grants, bursaries, discounted conference registration, or other time-limited opportunities.

A period of frozen membership will not prevent a member from being nominated for an SLSA prize where the freeze relates to family leave, including maternity, paternity, adoption, shared parental or parental leave, caring responsibilities, disability, serious illness, bereavement, or another equity, diversity and inclusion-related reason. In such cases, the member will be treated as eligible for nomination provided they were a member in good standing immediately before the freeze began.

Retired Membership of the SLSA

Upon retirement, members may transfer to retired membership at a time of their choosing. This entails a fee of £100 for lifetime membership.

The SLSA Administrator and/or the Membership Secretary reserve the right to carry out checks on eligibility for retired membership, and revoke retired membership of the SLSA.

A discretionary waiver of the £100 retired membership fee is available in cases of hardship, and members are advised to contact the [Membership Secretary](#) to discuss this.

Retired members of the SLSA will continue to receive newsletters, e-bulletins, and will continue to have the option to attend the annual conference at the discounted membership rates. Retired members may continue to nominate or be nominated for prizes and may still stand for and sit on the SLSA Board of Trustees.

Retired membership does not entitle the member to apply for SLSA grants.

Termination of Membership of the SLSA

This section of the Membership Policy is intended to set out the justification for having a membership termination process, to indicate the types of circumstances in which the membership termination process detailed in the SLSA's Constitution would be commenced, and to indicate who can request that the termination process be commenced.

The Purpose of the SLSA's Power of Termination

Membership of the SLSA can be terminated for a number of reasons.

Under section 9(4)(a) of the SLSA's Constitution, this includes termination on routine grounds in the event of the member's death or if an organisation member ceases to exist, if the member sends a notice of resignation to the Trustees, or if the member has not paid money owed to the SLSA within 6 months of it falling due.

Section 9(4)(a)(iv) of the SLSA's Constitution also gives the Trustees discretionary power to terminate membership where they decide it is in the best interests of the SLSA, subject to passing a resolution and following due process as set out in section 9(4)(b). In considering the best interests of the SLSA, Trustees will consider whether continuation of an individual's or organisation's membership would impede the SLSA's ability to meet its objectives, for example, by bringing the SLSA into disrepute.

Commencing the Termination Process

The Constitution does not set out specific examples, but allegations regarding the following may provide a justification for considering commencing the termination process under 9(4)(a)(iv).

In the Case of Individuals:

- A serious criminal offence

- Conduct in the course of the member's academic employment which, in the considered view of the Trustees, amounts to misconduct (for example, bullying, sexual harassment)
- Academic misconduct (for example, plagiarism, unethical research practice)
- Dishonesty in relation to the member's interactions with the SLSA.

In the Case of Organisations:

- A serious criminal offence (for example, corporate manslaughter)
- Dishonesty in relation to the organisation's interactions with the SLSA.

These lists are not intended to be exhaustive.

Section 9(4)(b) sets out the process for removing a member in relation to 9(4)(a)(iv), however it does not specify who may trigger the process, or how they should do so. The decision remains one for the Trustees, however, a request to start the termination process can be brought to the attention of the Trustees in the ways listed below.

- Either, a Trustee requests either in writing or at a meeting of the Trustees that the process be commenced, or
- Any other person or organisation requests in writing to the Trustees that the process be commenced, or
- As a result of a finding made under our complaints process termination of membership is proposed as an appropriate outcome,

And

- At a duly constituted meeting of the Trustees, having considered the request, the Trustees vote by a majority of those present to commence the process.

Personal Information and the Termination Process

We will not disclose the personal information (e.g. name, institutional affiliation) of a person(s) requesting that the termination process be commenced without their consent. However, we will ask the person(s) requesting the commencement of the termination process to give their consent to this information, and documentation relating to their request, being disclosed to the person(s) and/or organisation(s) named in that request (having regard to s.9(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution).

In the event that a requestor does not wish to disclose their personal details, the Trustees would consider whether it is possible for the substance of their request to be fairly considered without disclosing their personal information to the party/parties identified in the request (again, having regard to s.9(4)(b)(i)). For example, where a members' alleged misconduct is common knowledge within an academic department (e.g. because of public action taken within the department by Human Resources, or

by the Police), the identity of the person drawing the issue to the attention of the SLSA may be of less significance. As such, d

isclosure of the requestor's personal information may not be necessary in order to properly consider the request. Similarly, we will not make public the personal information of members subject to the termination process.

Removal of a Trustee

There are specific rules relating to removal of a Trustee in section 15 of the SLSA Constitution. Where a Trustee is also a member, any decision about termination of their membership is a separate issue and should be dealt with in line with this policy. A Trustee who is the subject of a process which might terminate their membership has a conflict of interest and must recuse themselves from the process.

Reapplications

If the membership of an individual has been terminated under this policy, any new application to join will be in line with section 9(1) of the Constitution and may be refused on the grounds of section 9(1)(b)(ii) that the membership is not in the best interests of the SLSA.

Change Record

Date of change	Changed by	Comments
20/5/2026	Membership Secretary	Approved by the Board

Appendix 1: Membership Plans and Benefits

Core membership benefits:

- a. eligible to be nominated for an SLSA prize
- b. eligible to apply as lead or co-applicant for SLSA grants (research, impact, international collaboration, seminar competition)
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- j. eligible to attend the SLSA Annual Postgraduate Conference
- k. eligible to apply for the SLSA fieldwork grant

Membership Plan	Cost of Plan	Length of Plan	Eligibility	Benefits
Full Membership	£50	1 year	-	a – i
Honorary Life-Time Membership	Gifted by the SLSA	Life-time	Winner of the SLSA Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community	a – i
Retired Membership	£100	Life-time	Retired from employment	a, c – i
CARA Fellow	Gifted by the SLSA	Tenure of CARA Fellowship	Member of the CARA Fellowship Programme	a – i
Postgraduate Research Student, free first year	Gifted by the SLSA	1 year	PhD student Has not previously received a free year of membership to the SLSA	a – k
Postgraduate Research Student, years following free first year	£25	1 year	PhD student	a – k