



Webinar - Common Questions

MEMBERSHIP

Q: How can I become a member of ISHS?

A: Access the website - <https://www.ishs.org/members>.

Q: Is there any financial reduction in memberships fees for non-European students?

ISHS offers discounted membership for students. See: <https://www.ishs.org/ishs-membership-categories>

Q: My membership was expired! Can I apply?

A: Yes, you may apply. Membership will be mandatory if you are selected to serve on the Young Minds Committee.

Q: Is there a reduction in membership fee for Early career professionals?

A: Please check for more information at: <https://www.ishs.org/ishs-membership-categories>

HOW TO APPLY

Q: What are the three requirements/steps to apply?

A: You should fill out the form and attach a support letter along with an essay. All the information and details can be found at: <https://www.ishs.org/young-minds-committee>. Afterward, submit the documents to the email: info@ishs.org.

DEADLINE

Q: What is the specific time (GMT) for the deadline?

A: The deadline to submit the candidacy is December 24th, 2024, at 23:59 h CET.

Q: Can the deadline be January because of holidays in December?

A: Unfortunately, this is not possible. However, the process and requirements are easy to prepare.

FORMS

Q: Are the formats to fill out already available on the ISHS website?

A: Yes, they are available at: <https://www.ishs.org/young-minds-committee>

SUPPORT LETTER

Q: About the support letters, is it enough to get one from a professor, or should it be an ISHS member?

A: You may obtain a support letter from a professor, whether they are an ISHS member or not.

Q: Can we request our Ph.D. supervisor to write the recommendation letter?

A: Yes, the support letter will be accepted from your supervisor.

Q: Can the supporting letter be from a private company manager where I work?

A: Yes, a letter of support letter from your manager will be accepted.

Q: What if we cannot find an ISHS member for a support letter? Is there another option?

A: Yes, you may obtain a support letter from a professor, researcher or your upline manager, irrespective of whether they are an ISHS member or not.

ESSAY

Q: Should the idea be global or is it acceptable if it relates to a region?

A: The idea could be a regional problem/situation if it is of global significance.

Q: Can I use a topic that I have already worked on or does it have to be new as well as original?

A: You may. However, we are expecting an original idea with a proposed solution for a horticultural problem/situation.

Q: Do the essay topics need to have a technical focus, such as agricultural techniques, or can they also include issues like marketing strategies or social perspectives, such as anthropological research within farming communities?

A: All situations are welcome: technical, social and economic.

Q: Is there a specific format for submitting the original idea?

A: There are guidelines on the ISHS website: <https://www.ishs.org/young-minds-committee>

ORIGIN REGIONS

Q: I am a Ph.D. student in Italy and about to complete my Ph.D. next month but I am originally from Asia. Should I apply for Asia or Europe?

A: The elected committee will be active until August 2026. In your case, we recommend that you to apply representing your region of origin.

Q: During application, is it a must to apply based on the continent you are presently in or based on your continent of origin?

A: It depends. If you plan to stay in a specific continent until at least August 2026, you should consider applying for that particular region.

WHO IS YOUNG MINDS

Q: Do you have an age-limitation for the YM Committee?

A: Up to 40 years old.

Q: How do you define “Early career”?

Professionals with less than 10 years of experience after receiving a terminal degree - up to 40 years old.

CHOOSING THE CATEGORY – STUDENT OR EARLY CAREER?

Q: I am a student, but also a researcher - should I apply as a student or as a researcher in early phase of career?

A: Choose the one where you believe you can make a greater contribution and feel more suited.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

Q: What are the benefits of this program?

A: The committee members will bear the responsibility of shaping the framework for the ISHS Young Minds. Our aim is to amplify the voices of young individuals. Members will engage with young horticulturists globally, liaising with the entire ISHS Board and membership to foster a robust network.

Q: Does the participation on the Committee help to boost my chances to get a job or position?

A: Absolutely! Engaging in the Committee will enhance both your professional and personal skills, while also expanding your network.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YMC

Q: Could you introduce a little bit about the responsibility of the YM Committee? What will they do if chosen to be a member? Can you give examples?

A: The YM Committee will collaborate closely with the ISHS Board, under the supervision of the ISHS Vice-President, who is in charge of the Young Minds program. The Committee's responsibilities encompass the preparation, organization and implementation of the Young Minds program. This program will include various actions such as training, mentorship, publication, extension, job-related and social initiatives.

Q: If we are accepted, for how long are we committing ourselves?

A: We expect that you will be available for an online meeting (1-2 hours) every 30-40 days and to complete some assigned tasks in the interim period.

Q: What resources does it have (financial, political, network)?

A: ISHS is committed to this program and to this initiative. The ISHS Vice-President will oversee the group, and additionally, the committee will receive support and engage with other Board members, based on their respective portfolios. However, the position on the committee is entirely voluntary and there is no direct financial remuneration.

YMC ORGANIZATION

Q: Only 12 people are members of this committee. Who will elect the YM president etc.?

A: The positions of YM President, YM Vice-President, and YM Secretary will be elected from within the Committee by the committee.

Q: Will the positions be remote?

A: Yes, given the diverse geographic locations of our committee members, we will conduct the majority of meetings online. However, the committee will meet face-to-face at the International Horticulture Congress. Regrettably however, ISHS will not be able to financially support the attendance of committee members at the IHC.

Q: If we become a committee member, at the same time, can we join the program as participants?

A: Yes. It is important that committee members participate and engage in as many activities as possible.

IF NOT SELECTED...

Q: If I am not selected, how may I otherwise participate in the ISHS Young Minds network and get to know your organization? Are there any plans to encourage and sustain young people's interest in being active members of the ISHS?

A: There are many activities in which you can participate. The committee will collaborate with the Board to organize and prepare these activities, and all young members of the society are invited to take part. Stay connected with us!

OTHER

Q: Is there any conflict being involved with any other committees or organizations?

A: No, it would be great to share experiences with other committees or organizations.

Q: Does ISHS have representatives from each country?

A: ISHS boasts members from over 100 different countries. The Board is comprised of elected representatives from six diverse regions worldwide: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania, and South America.

Q: So if we have any questions, should be send emails to info@ishs.org?

A: For any inquires or questions, please reach out via email to: info@ishs.org.