



International Association  
for the Scientific Study  
of Intellectual Disabilities

## **Guidelines for Fellowship of IASSID**

**Important: Please Read Carefully -**

**Information for those considering Fellowship:**

Applications or nominations for Fellowship are considered by Council in accordance with the relevant Articles of Association, namely Articles VII Sections 4 and 5.

- VII. An applicant or nominee for Fellowship shall in addition satisfy the Council that he or she -
- a) has made a substantial contribution to the Association.
  - b) Has made an important contribution to the advancement of knowledge on intellectual disabilities, or
  - c) Has made an important contribution to the advancement of the work of the Association.

The Council may admit to Fellowship such eligible applicants or nominees as it deems fit. In determining the eligibility of applicants or nominees, Council will bear in mind the extremely high standing of Fellowship of the Association, and the requirement that Fellows possess attributes that can reasonably be described using terms such as “substantial”, “superior”, and “important”. In making determinations of the suitability of applicants or nominees for Fellowship, Council evaluates the information it has been provided with in the context of the following types of considerations:

**1. What constitutes a “substantial contribution to the Association?”**

Such contributions should be in the realms of developing the Association and of contributing to its aims. Holding office in the Association should be seen as important, but not necessary, and not sufficient on its own. Some contributions might include:

- Editing a publication of the Association over a long period.
- Instituting a successful conference or annual event.
- Representing the Association successfully in negotiations / collaborations with other organisations, particularly when they

serve to enhance opportunities for developing an understanding of intellectual disabilities.

- Establishing or leading a successful Special Interest Research Group (personal responsibility for this should be demonstrated).
- Serving actively and successfully on committees over a long period of time.
- Publicising the Association in a positive light.
- Promoting collegiality within the Association (e.g. preventing or resolving conflict).

## 2. **What constitutes advancement of knowledge, research and practice in intellectual disabilities?**

Superior knowledge would be most associated with a proven track record in academic contexts; superior skills would be practitioner-related. Some examples might include:

- Having received an honorary degree, because of work in intellectual disabilities.
- Having received honours such as special awards, commendations, fellowships etc. from other bodies that specialise in intellectual disabilities or related disciplines.
- Having achieved a professorship in intellectual disabilities unusually early in one's career.
- Developing a genuinely major theory or method in one's field (e.g. of international repute).
- Be deemed (for example by one's peers) to be exceptionally skilled in one's field (e.g. be a renowned researcher).

## 3. **What constitutes an "important contribution to the advancement of knowledge on intellectual disabilities?"**

This essentially implies a successful career in academia, research, or writing. One would expect achievement of most of the following examples:

- Having a qualifications-set that would ensure a senior position in academia (e.g. a doctorate, a publication list equivalent to around three to four peer-reviewed publications per annum over a number of years, a track record of successful research grant applications and doctorate students etc.).
- Having established new academic programmes on intellectual disabilities of accreditable standard (personal responsibility for this should be demonstrated).
- Having authored a successful book (or books) that advance knowledge of intellectual disabilities.

- Having managed research in intellectual disabilities that is recognised as significant within one's field (e.g. internationally).
- 4. What constitutes an "important contribution to the advance of Research to Practice in the field of intellectual disabilities"?**

This essentially implies a successful career in the field of intellectual disabilities or in the management of service provision. Examples include:

- Having oneself, an advanced level of training and practice in intellectual disabilities.
- Having established new training programmes in intellectual disabilities of accreditable standard (personal responsibility for this should be demonstrated).
- Having established or managed over a number of years, an intellectual disability service, especially one which serves previously neglected client groups or geographical areas.
- Having achieved a significant expansion of intellectual disabilities services through negotiation with government, or related agencies.
- Having incorporated evidence-based practices or service design into provision and been receptive to / supported the conduct of research.