

Scheme of Award of Fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland

The Library Association of Ireland was incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1908 to 1924 as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, on 3 March 1952. The revised Memorandum and Articles of the Association of the Association (2009) operate under the updated Companies Acts, 1963-2009. The articles of Association of Cumann Leabharlanna na hEireann adopted at that date defined classes of Membership to include Fellows and Honorary Fellows. This Scheme relates solely to the category of Fellows.

Introduction

1. Fellowship is the highest professional qualification awarded by the Library Association of Ireland. It signifies that an Associate or other eligible member has developed to the potential required for that award and has applied an increasing level of professionalism both through personal professional practice and through contribution made to the profession at large. The achievement carries with it the right to the designation Fellow of the Library Association of Ireland and the right to the use of the post-nominal letters FLAI. Fellowship is normally awarded only to Associate Members or in exceptional cases, provided they hold a recognised professional qualification in Librarianship, to others who have been on the Register of Membership of the Library Association of Ireland for at least five years. Attainment of Fellowship indicates professional recognition of individual progression in professional development on a continuing basis from the date on which the member was awarded Associate Membership. Those who achieve it should find it of value in demonstrating their professional competency at a high level and in assisting their own career aspirations.

2. **Fellowship Admission requirements**

Applicants must have:

- **Completed a period of not less than five years on the Register of Associate Members of the Library Association of Ireland;**

and

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- **have demonstrated professional development, commitment and achievement recognised by the Library Association of Ireland as being of a high level in accordance with the criteria as set out in 3 below.**

Exceptionally, Members who are not Associates may apply for Fellowship provided that evidence is produced of their having reached a level of professional development commensurate with that required for the award of Associateship. This will be followed by a period of professional practice and development comparable in duration and quality with the minimum required of Associate Members admitted to Fellowship.

2.1 Membership Candidates for admission to the Register of Fellows must be in current membership of the Library Association of Ireland and must have been a member in good standing for a minimum period of five years on the date of submission.

2.2 Applications

Form of application Applicants must submit a completed application form which may be downloaded [here](#) and a portfolio which must include:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- A statement of not more than 500 words stating why the applicant believes Fellowship should be awarded ;
- One copy of each document or other evidence presented in support of the Fellowship application. In the case of published works a copy of the title page and table of contents will suffice.

Applications may include:

- Written support from other Associate members or senior colleagues who can comment on the merits of the application for admission to the Register of Fellows.

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3.0 Assessment

Applications will be assessed by the board of assessors reporting to the Association's Education Committee: Professional Standards against criteria outlined in 3.1. below

3.1 Fellowship Assessment Criteria Candidates must provide evidence of the following:

- Appreciable achievement in professional practice ;
- Continuity of involvement in professional development ;
- Having added significant value to all or aspects of the profession.

3.2 Specifically, the Committee in applying the criteria for assessment requires that candidates demonstrate continuity in their evidence of:

- Having developed an appropriate range of competencies significantly beyond that required for admission to Associate Membership;
- Strengthened evaluative and analytical skills applied at a high level of professional activity;
- Added to the body of professional knowledge by way of strategic innovation in professional practices, contribution to the profession generally or specifically, and/or by research or publication.

The dates for submission of applications in each year are 15 March, 15 July and 15 October. Please contact [Marjory Sliney](#).

Revised: January 2016