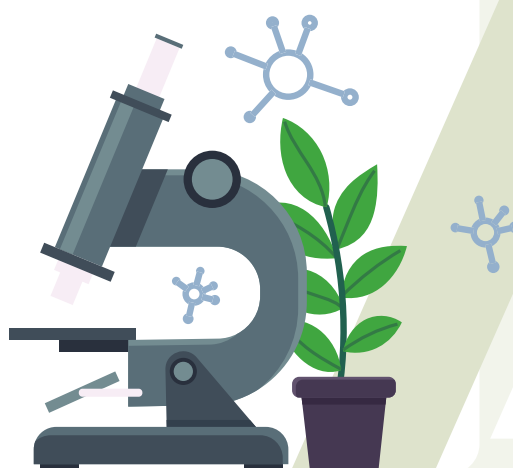




**Association for European  
Life Science Universities**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. STRATEGIC APPROACH                          | 3  |
| 1.1. GOVERNANCE                                | 5  |
| 1.2. ICA BOARD COMMITTEES                      | 6  |
| 1.3. ASSOCIATED NETWORKS                       | 8  |
| 1.4. ICA MEMBERS                               | 10 |
| 2. BENEFITS OF ICA MEMBERSHIP                  | 12 |
| 2.1. ICA EVENTS AND INITIATIVES                | 13 |
| 2.2. ICA MEMBERS CONTRIBUTION TO ICA'S SUCCESS | 20 |
| 3. HOW TO BECOME ICA MEMBER                    | 21 |
| 3.1. ICA MEMBERSHIP                            | 21 |
| 3.2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE                     | 22 |
|  |    |
|  |    |
|  |    |





## 1. STRATEGIC APPROACH

Building on ICA's current strength and potential the "ICA Strategy towards 2030" has been developed. This strategy aims to make ICA highly relevant and visible for its members and committees, and place ICA as a valuable and trusted partner in Europe.

The proposed measures are not a blueprint for ICA till 2030, but rather several vital initial steps that have to be taken on the road to make ICA a sustainable and relevant European organisation and partner by 2030.

### ICA's Vision

High quality, visible and appreciated European life science universities that jointly play an essential role in transitioning to a European and global sustainable bioeconomy and society.



### ICA's Mission

To strengthen and promote European life science universities by:

- 1 Supporting and enhancing their education, research and innovation for a sustainable bioeconomy and society.
- 2 Providing platforms for cooperation, joint learning, and sharing experiences and understanding.
- 3 Representing and engaging our member with European institutions and networks.
- 4 Making the knowledge and experts of our members institutions available for transitioning to a sustainable bioeconomy and society across Europe and globally.





## ICA's Essentials

- 1 In implementing the vision and mission ICA needs to fulfil seven essentials:
- 2 The active engagement of ICA members and their scientist to benefit from and contribute to ICA's role in Europe and globally;
- 3 Maintaining intensive relations with actors in the European arena of science, policy, society and business;
- 4 The provision of thought leadership in the domain of the European sustainable bioeconomy;
- 5 A proactive public affairs policy presence in (social) media and in European networks;
- 6 An effective governance system with a well-resourced and competent secretariat;
- 7 Strong concerted actions between the ICA Board, the ICA Board Committees, and the ICA Standing Committees;
- 8 Adequate funding and resources to achieve these essentials.



## 1.2. ICA BOARD COMMITTEES

### ICA European committee

This committee is central to implementing the “[ICA strategy towards 2030](#)” by initiating and maintaining interactions with European institutions, collecting and disseminating EU business intelligence, influencing agenda of the European Commission, identifying project opportunities for ICA members, developing ideas for thought pieces, and providing communication feeds.

### ICA Network for Innovation in Life Sciences Higher Education

The committee aims to provide the opportunity to discuss innovative approaches in higher education in the sciences of agriculture, food, natural resources, rural development, and the environment.

### ICA Board Committee: Community of Practice for Bioeconomy Education in Europe (ICA-CoP Bio-Edu)

The main objective of the committee is to enhance the quality, offer and diversity of education for the sustainable circular bioeconomy in Europe.

### ICA-Edu Special Interest Group (SIG) for Sustainable Entrepreneurship Education in the Life Sciences

The committee addresses the expectation for the new generation of bioeconomy graduates (agri-food, bio-based economy, and Life Science) to show creativity, resilience, sustainability orientation, pro-activeness and risk taking in a world that is characterised by uncertainty.



## 1.2. ICA STANDING COMMITTEES

ICA is an umbrella organisation linking different ICA Standing Committees which either have a discipline or cross discipline support focus:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>AGRIMBA:</b>    | International Network for the MBA in Agribusiness and Commerce  |
| <b>AGRINATURA:</b> | The European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development   |
| <b>CASEE:</b>      | The ICA Regional Network for Central and South-Eastern Europe   |
| <b>ERABEE:</b>     | Network for Education and Research in Agricultural and  |
| <b>IFA:</b>        | ISEKI Food Association  |
| <b>IROICA:</b>     | International Relations Officers' Network of the Association of European Life Sciences Universities       |
| <b>I.S.L.E.:</b>   | Association for Innovation, Teaching and Sustainable Development in the Life, Applied and Social Sciences |
| <b>SILVA:</b>      | European Forest Science Academic Network  |







### 1.3. ASSOCIATED NETWORKS

- ICA liaises with other European and global networks such as Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences ([GCHERA](#)) and international students associations, such like International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences ([IAAS](#)), International Forestry Students' Association ([IFSA](#)).
- ICA is developing other important partnerships with the European Working Groups and Eu-wide projects and their advisory boards.
- ICA is a member of the EC European Economic and Social Committee [Leadership Group on Bioeconomy](#) and [Leadership Group on Biodiversity and Climate](#).
- ICA is supporting different kind of European Initiatives, such like: [WUR-ICA Biodiversity Challenge](#), [WUR Nature-Based Students Challenge](#), and [BISC-e Bio-Based Innovation student Challenge Europe](#), etc.

### ICA EXPERTISE

ICA is a member of European Circular Economy Stakeholders platforms' leadership groups on:

#### #LG Bioeconomy

LG group focus on circular bioeconomy and bio-value chains based on four pillars: industrial symbiosis, green transition, climate change and biodiversity. The Leadership Group touch on the business perspective - how to build a marketplace of bio-based products and implement new technologies for waste from agriculture, food processing and many other branches of industry to extend the chain of biomass products.





The group focus on the following priorities:

- Creating effective urban food hubs to prevent food loss;
- Promoting regenerative agriculture and agri- ecosystems, safe biofertilisers;
- Close Biowaste cycle, industrial symbiosis implementation e.g., bio-plastics, packaging, construction materials, textiles.

## #LG Biodiversity and Climate

The LG on Biodiversity and Climate aims to help maximise the circular economy and contribute to achieving the biodiversity and climate targets. By connecting key actors in the circular economy and the nature conservation and climate debates, the group aims to help identify opportunities and ways to overcome potential challenges.

This has included a series of reports published by its members, with another still upcoming, and it has included bringing the discussion to several high-level fora, including COP27 and COP15. At the same time, the last annual Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference dedicated an important segment of the event to this issue.

The group focus on the following priorities:

- Getting concrete towards the transition;
- Focusing on key sectors, especially the bioeconomy;
- Further engaging the biodiversity and climate communities;
- Engaging with the international dimension;
- Promoting policy coherence.

## 1.4. ICA MEMBERS

### ICAs strength is its networks

As a network organization which covers 51 European University and Faculty in the area of life sciences and which has a leading role in the development of research and innovation, and which are influencing European R&I agenda providing evidence based recommendations and solutions to tackle not only regional, national, European, but also global challenges.

### ICA Member Institutions



| Country | Institutions   |
|---------|--|
| AL      | Agricultural University of Tirana                                  |
| AT      | University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna          |
| BE      | Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liege                        |
| BE      | Ghent University   |
| BE      | KU Leuven  |
| BE      | UCLouvain  |
| BE      | University College PXL   |
| CH      | Bern University of Applied Sciences                                |
| CY      | Cyprus University of Technology                                    |
| CZ      | Czech University of Life Sciences Prague                           |
| CZ      | Mendel University in Brno  |
| DE      | Geisenheim University  |
| DE      | University of Hohenheim  |
| DK      | Aarhus University  |
| EE      | Estonian University of Life Sciences                               |
| FI      | University of Eastern Finland                                      |
| FI      | University of Helsinki   |
| FR      | AgroParisTech  |
| FR      | FranceAgro3  |
| FR      | French Agricultural, Veterinary and Forestry Institute (AGREENIUM) |
| FR      | Institut Polytechnique UniLaSalle                                  |

|    |  |
|----|--|
| FR | Institut Agro  |
| HR | Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Agriculture       |
| HR | University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture                               |
| HU | Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences                      |
| IE | University College Dublin  |
| IS | Agricultural University of Iceland   |
| IT | Catholic University of the Sacred Heart                                    |
| IT | Free University of Bozen - Bolzano   |
| IT | University of Modena and Reggio Emilia                                     |
| KZ | Kazakh National Agrarian Research University                               |
| LT | Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy                             |
| LV | Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies                        |
| NL | Avans University of Applied Sciences                                       |
| NL | Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences                         |
| NL | Wageningen University and Research Centre                                  |
| NO | Norwegian University of Life Sciences                                      |
| NO | University of Nordland   |
| PL | University of Agriculture in Krakow  |
| PL | Warsaw University of Life Sciences - SGGW                                  |
| PL | Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences                      |
| PT | University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro                                |
| RO | University of Life Sciences "King Michael I" from Timișoara                |
| RO | University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca |
| RO | University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine - Bucharest       |
| SE | Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences                                |
| SI | University of Ljubljana  |
| SK | Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra                                  |
| UA | Dmytro Motornyi Tavria State Agrotechnological University                  |
| UA | National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine          |
| UK | University of Reading  |





## 2. BENEFITS OF ICA MEMBERSHIP

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Networking</b>            | ICA provides a forum for members to develop their network, to share experiences, learn from each other.   |
| <b>Professional updating</b> | ICA's conferences and workshops for researchers and university leaders serve as a forum to discuss innovative practice and concerns, and act as a clearinghouse for information exchange and updates on strategic issues. Moreover, ICA provides leadership in promoting innovative education curricula, and other student learning opportunities (e.g., exchange).   |
| <b>European dimension</b>    | ICA organises and promotes joint EU applications, supplies member institutions with EU information, and articulates the priorities for life science universities within the European Higher Education and Research Areas; agenda setting, research funding calls, thematic initiatives, and access to European networks, as well as influence on European strategy, policies, and research funding schemes. |
| <b>Representation</b>        | ICA enables its members to participate or be represented in European and regional networks, European Standing Committees, and other relevant European institutions.   |
| <b>Intelligence services</b> | ICA provides any other services to its members, such as reviews, advice regarding trends or changing needs in competencies, skills, employability, study programmes, lifelong learning demands, positions on research and innovation policy, etc.   |





## 2.1. ICA EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

### ICA's Annual Rectors and Deans Forums

The ICA Forum for Rectors, Deans and senior management of agricultural and life science universities in Europe aims to provide these university decision makers from ICA's member universities with the opportunity to meet, to discuss current issues in the agricultural and life sciences and to exchange views on issues with relevant stakeholders in industry, government and NGOs.

On the 19 and 20 October 2023 the 13th Rectors and Deans Forum to be held at JUNIA in Lille will focus on **One Health Triad Challenges for Life Science Universities and on the Opportunities and Threats of AI (artificial intelligence) in Education and Research**

### The past Forums have focused on:

#### 12th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2022, Kaunas

Bending the Curve for Biodiversity: challenges and opportunities for life science universities  
Life science universities addressing Knowledge Security

#### 11th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2021, Leuven

The Role of Life Science Universities in Transitioning to Climate Neutrality  
Open Science





### 10th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2020 - online

Agricultural and Life Science Universities Responding to Covid-19  
Agricultural & Life Science Universities responding to the European Green Deal

### 9th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2019, Beauvais

Collaboration between European & African Life Science Universities for a Sustainable Future

### 8th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2018, Wageningen

High Tech to Feed the World Sustainably: Innovation from Spade to Fork

### 7th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2017, Louvain-la-Neuve

Life Science Universities Deliver Impact in Addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

### 6th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2016, Ghent

The Life Science University in the 21stC Global World

### 5th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2015, Piacenza

Educating the Young Professionals to Feed the Planet & Provide for the Sustainable Bioeconomy





#### **4th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2014, Ghent**

Challenges and Policy Implications of the new EU Programming period 2014 - 2020 for Life Science Universities

#### **3rd ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2013, Ghent**

Engagement of Life Science Universities in Supporting the Growth of the Bioeconomy – the social, environmental, and economic implications

#### **2nd ICA Rectors & Deans Forum 2012, Ghent**

Engagement of Life Science Universities in the Knowledge Society and Innovation Networks

#### **1st ICA Rectors & Deans Forum 2011, Ghent**

Life Sciences Universities and Faculties: Meeting the Challenges and Expectations



## ICA Communiqué

One of the outcomes of the of the annual ICA general assembly and Rectors and dean's forum is all ICA members contribution and approval of ICA Communiqué:

### **COMMUNIQUÉ to LEADERS at COP26 - 22 October 2021**

"LIFE SCIENCES UNIVERSITIES ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND  
ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMIES".

Full Communiqué can be found [HERE](#).

### **COMMUNIQUÉ to LEADERS at the UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE (COP 15) - December 2022**

"EUROPEAN LIFE SCIENCES UNIVERSITIES ADDRESSING THE URGENT NEED  
TO BEND THE CURVE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS".

Full Communiqué can be found [HERE](#).



## ICA Biodiversity Challenge

At the 12th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum in October 2022 focusing on **Bending the Curve for Biodiversity: challenges and opportunities for life science universities** an important Communiqué was published, in which ICA members pledged to put biodiversity conservation at the heart of their activities.

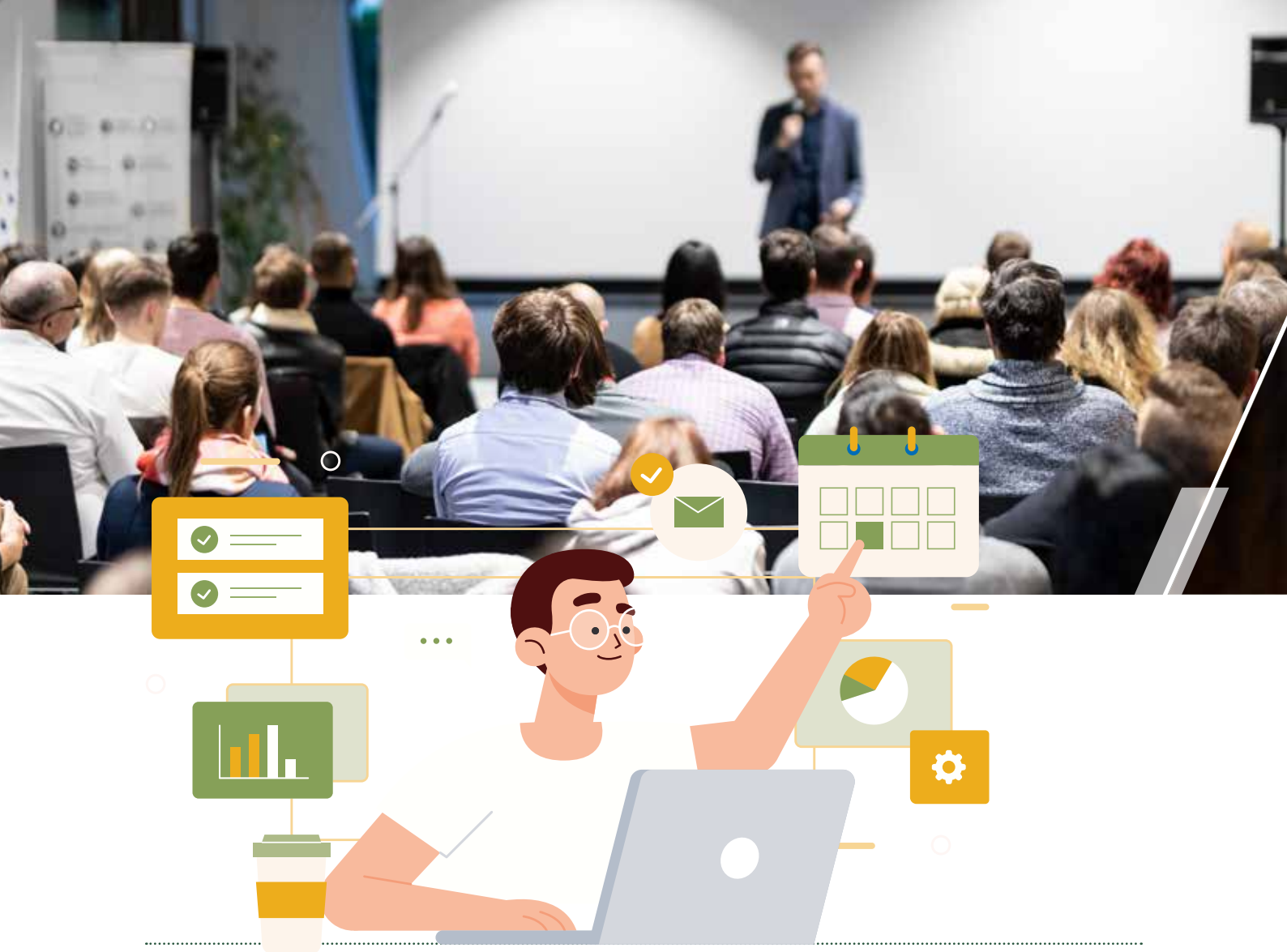
With this **ICA Biodiversity Challenge 2023** we put forward an activity for all ICA members that is fun, brings our staff and students together, and sparks engagement with biodiversity, particularly relating to this part of the pledge made in the Communiqué:

*“We will engage to protect and enhance the biodiversity of our own life science university grounds, campuses and other estates, for them to become enlightening examples and teaching tools for biodiversity-based development.”*

**17 ICA universities have enthusiastically agreed to participate in this Challenge and for six weeks, staff and students have been counting species on their university grounds.**

The results and highlights has been discussed during an interactive (online) closing event.





## ICA's Board committees' workshops and webinars

These types of events are the platform for teachers and students to discuss and foster peer-learning focused on current issues and challenges that they are facing in their regular study and teaching processes: The most recent events in 2023:

- "Using granular data sets to improve student retention, progression and outcomes and to address awarding gaps".
- "Engaging students in extra-curricular activities".
- "Engaging with industry to ensure that graduates and professionals are well prepared for employment in the Bioeconomy".
- "Implementing challenge-based learning in sustainable entrepreneurship education allowing for the development of (sustainable) entrepreneurial competencies".
- "The student engagement challenge"
- "AI can do your students' written assignments, so what now for assessments?"

[Past events of ICA-Edu can be viewed here.](#)

[Past events of ICA-CoP Bio-Edu can be viewed here](#)

[Past events of ICA-Edu SIG can be viewed here](#)



## ICA Excellence Award

The Association for European Life Science Universities wishes to recognise individuals who have achieved excellence in furthering the values and mission of ICA as described in the "ICA Strategy towards 2030".

Calls are made for nominations for the ICA Excellence Award in each of the following **three categories**:



- **ICA Excellence Award – Lifetime Achievements**
- **ICA Excellence Award – Early-Stage Academic**
- **ICA Excellence Award – Networking**

ICA members are invited to nominate persons for the awards who have achieved excellence in the following criteria:

- 1 Providing thought leadership, inspiration, and by contributing new knowledge through research and/or innovation for the European and global sustainable circular bioeconomy and society, and/or;
- 2 Enhancing education in the specific areas relevant to ICA and more generally in the areas of the sustainable bioeconomy and society, and/or;
- 3 Developing cooperation through contributing to platforms, joint learning, outreach and networking, and/or sharing experiences and understanding among European colleagues, resulting in improved research, education or innovation and/or;
- 4 Achieving impact and relevance with specific reference to the ICA values and mission.

## 2.2. ICA MEMBERS CONTRIBUTION TO ICA'S SUCCESS

- 1 University and Faculty senior management contribute to ICA's governance through participation in the ICA General Assembly and Nominate representatives for election to the ICA Board.
- 2 University and Faculty senior management engage in ICA's activities and events.
- 3 Members Contribute to the activities of the ICA Standing Committees and the ICA Board Committees through participation in events and election of members to the Board/Executive Committee of these bodies. These Committees actively seek to involve university staff that do not necessarily hold senior leadership positions.
- 4 Contribute to ad-hoc working groups to produce position papers and other thought-leadership documents.
- 5 Contribute to ICA intelligence services by sharing European or international information that may be of benefit to other ICA members.





## 3. HOW TO BECOME ICA MEMBER

### 3.1. ICA MEMBERSHIP

Membership of ICA is open to higher education institutions which have a focus in the life sciences relating to the circular bioeconomy the sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity, the protection of the environment and rural development.

**Full membership** is open to higher education institutions which are from countries which are signatures to the Bologna Process. The higher education institution will normally award as a minimum MSc degree by both taught and research elements.

**Associate membership** is open to higher education institutions from countries outside the area covered by the Bologna Process agreement. Application for Associate Membership can also be made by educational organisations which relate to ICA's discipline area, but which are not higher educational institutions.

| Member Institution size (university or faculty) indicated by the number students | Annual Full Membership Subscription |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Small ( $\leq 1000$ students)  | €1200                               |
| Medium ( $>1000$ students $\leq 2000$ )  | €2300                               |
| Large ( $>2000$ students $\leq 5000$ )   | €3300                               |
| Extra large ( $> 5000$ students)   | €4200                               |

For institutions who have an Associate Membership of ICA, and for institutions coming from countries with a GDP/capita of  $\leq \$9,000$  the Membership Subscription will be 50 percent of the applicable Full Membership Subscription.

We look forward to welcoming your institution to the ICA-network of higher education institutions and working with you in the future. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Simon Heath, Deputy Secretary General ([icasecretariat@ica-europe.org](mailto:icasecretariat@ica-europe.org)).

## 3.2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Read the guidelines and procedures here: <https://www.ica-europe.info/join-ica>  
If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to us.



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