

Entry-Level Members – breaks in membership

We expect that all ELMs should upgrade to a Professional grade within seven years. This is described in the leaflet 'The limits on non-Professional membership', available to download [from the website](#). If you leave the Society and rejoin later, we treat your membership as continuing. Here is how this works.

When you rejoin

To join the Society you must complete the online application form, and the system then collects the subscription (see 'Subscriptions – individual members', available to download [from the website](#), for further information) and a joining fee.

If you tell us that you were a member (or associate) before, or if we notice this, your records may still be held on our database. If the break in your membership lasted for three years or less, we will refund the joining fee. It would be helpful if you could confirm your membership number (and your unmarried name, if different), though this is not vital.

We ignore the break in membership

To treat your membership as continuous, we calculate for you a fictitious 'ELM date', from which your maximum seven years of Entry-Level Membership will run. This date is arrived at by taking the number of complete months in your previous period of membership and subtracting this from the date you rejoin:

Example A

Alex joined the SfEP on 24 November 2013, did not renew on 1 March 2015 but rejoined on 21 September 2015. The first period of membership lasted for fifteen complete months, so we take fifteen months off 21 September 2015: this gives an ELM date of 21 June 2014.

If you joined before 1 March 2015, we will only count membership from 1 March 2012 (i.e. three years before we launched the current membership structure):

Example B

Chris joined the SfEP on 24 November 2010, did not renew on 1 March 2014 but rejoined on 21 September 2015. We count the twenty-four months from 1 March 2012 to 28 February 2014, so we take twenty-four months off 21 September 2015: this gives an ELM date of 21 September 2013.



If you have had more than one break in membership, we add all the periods of membership together:

Example C

Drew joined the SfEP on 2 January 2013, did not renew on 1 March 2014, but joined again on 15 January 2015 and lapsed again on 1 March 2016, rejoining on 21 September 2016.

Drew belonged to the SfEP for thirteen complete months between 2013 and 2014, and another thirteen complete months between 2015 and 2016, so we take twenty-six months off 21 September 2016: this gives an ELM date of 21 July 2014.

Example D

Pat joined the SfEP on 2 January 2008, so was first due to renew in March 2009. (S)he did not renew then, but joined again on 15 January 2010. (S)he was next due to renew in March 2011, and lapsed again, rejoining again on 21 September 2011, and lapsing again in March 2013. (S)he rejoined on 21 September 2015.

In all, Pat has belonged to the SfEP for thirty-one complete months, but we count the twelve months from 1 March 2012 to 28 February 2013, and take twelve months off 21 September 2015: this gives an ELM date of 21 September 2014.