

## Intermediate Members – breaks in membership

We expect that all IMs should upgrade to a Professional grade within four 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 unmarried name, if different), though this is not vital.

### We ignore the break in membership

Two time limits apply to IMs: you may remain in that grade for up to four years, or until you have completed seven years without progressing to Professional Membership, if that is sooner. The interaction of these limits is described in the leaflet 'The limits on non-Professional membership', available to download [from the website](#).

To treat your membership as continuous, we calculate for you two fictitious dates: an 'IM date', from which your maximum four years of Intermediate Membership will run, and an 'ELM date' from which the overriding seven-year limit will run. These dates are arrived at by taking the number of complete months in your previous period of Intermediate Membership, and the number of months completed in your whole previous period of membership, and subtracting them from the date you rejoin:

#### Example A

Alex joined the SfEP on 24 November 2014, upgraded to IM on 1 October 2015, did not renew on 1 March 2016 but rejoined on 21 September 2016. The first period of membership lasted for fifteen complete months, and included five months of Intermediate Membership, so we:

- take five months off 21 September 2016 to give an 'IM date' of 21 April 2016, and
- take fifteen months off 21 September 2016 to give an 'ELM date' of 21 June 2015.



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, upgraded to IM on 1 October 2015, did not renew on 1 March 2016 but rejoined on 21 September 2016. We count the thirty-six months from 1 March 2012 to 29 February 2016, and the five months of Intermediate Membership, so we:

- take five months off 21 September 2016 to give an 'IM date' of 21 April 2016, and
- take thirty-six months off 21 September 2016: 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, upgraded to IM on 1 October 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 to give an ELM date of 21 July 2014. We also take five months off 21 September 2016 to give an 'IM date' of 21 April 2016.

#### Example D

Pat joined the SfEP on 24 November 2010, did not renew on 1 March 2011, but joined again on 15 January 2012. (S)he upgraded to IM on 1 October 2015, did not renew on 1 March 2016 but rejoined on 21 September 2016.

In all, Pat has belonged to the SfEP for fifty-two complete months, but we count the forty-eight months from 1 March 2012 to 28 February 2016, and take forty-eight months off 21 September 2016: this gives an ELM date of 21 September 2012. We also take five months off 21 September 2016 to give an 'IM date' of 21 April 2016.

But note: the seven-year limit will expire sooner than four years from 21 April 2016; Pat must upgrade to Professional Membership by 20 September 2019, three years after (s)he rejoined.