



Introducing the new IOA Research Member grade

Looking back at the Acoustics Bulletin articles covering the history of the IOA it becomes obvious that when the Institute was formed there was interest mainly from manufacturers, consultants, environment health officers and academics. In recent years, the IOA has focused more on industry and consultancy.

By Professor Stephen Dance

In 2014, the Research Coordination Committee under Professor Horoshenkov created the UK Acoustics Network (UKAN) to provide a forum to link industry with academia.

In 2017, this led to a successful Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) grant bid which was followed by more success in 2021 with UKAN+. UKAN now has 1,800 members split 50/50 between academia and industry, approximately half are also members of the IOA. Currently, UKAN membership is free for all and you can apply at www.acoustics.ac.uk The long-term plan is for UKAN and the IOA to develop a forum for everyone with an interest in acoustics-related science.

In 2022, again thanks to the work of the Research Coordination Committee, the idea arose of creating a new membership grade, which would be attractive to potential members who were early in their academic career. This would provide a new pathway between

Student and Associate Membership that would allow in time full corporate status. This idea was formally put forward at the IOA AGM in August 2022.

In 2023, the Membership Committee created a simplified application form which covered all non-taught students i.e. MRes, MPhil, PhD and EngD programmes for students in a field directly associated with acoustics. As with the Associate Membership status, a five year limit was deemed to be appropriate. This prohibits part-time PhD or EngD students but of course their main job could be in acoustics and hence AMIOA or MIOA would still be open to them. Hence, it was decided to recommend to Council that the Research Member grade should be a specific subset of the Associate Membership grade. The key difference being that all communication will be by electronic means, to be more sustainable, as well as to lower operational costs, thus allowing the fee to be significantly reduced compared to that of those with AMIOA status.

Above:
UKAN members at the recent UKAN annual conference at the University of Sheffield

Apply now

The application form is now live, and the applications are being reviewed by the Membership Committee. It is hoped that with the right promotion (e.g. at *Art of Being a Consultant* and *Art of Being an Acoustician* meetings, the support of the Early Careers group, as well as through UKAN) this new grade will, in time, provide a new revenue stream to the IOA, but more importantly create a conduit where once again industry and academia are working together to benefit the acoustics community.

To apply you just need a thesis title, a proposer, and an academic email address.

The benefits of being a Research Member

- membership certificate (electronic copy);
- membership number;
- reduced fee (currently set at £30);
- attend at meetings/conference at the student fee price;
- free access to Acoustic Bulletins (PDF);
- free access to I-NCSE Journal – Noise Control Engineering Journal;
- free access to Acta Acustica / Acustica Journal;
- free access to I-NCSE Proceedings (1972 onwards); and
- all the other benefits an AMIOA member would receive. 