

# INSTITUTE OF MAXILLOFACIAL PROSTHETISTS & TECHNOLOGISTS



MEMBERSHIP GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

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## 1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Institute of Maxillofacial Prosthetists & Technologists (IMPT) is an international organisation, with membership affiliation in over 20 countries. It is a registered charity and a registered company limited by guarantee. The founding purpose of the IMPT was to establish, oversee and maintain best practice, whilst maintaining and supporting the training, qualification, knowledge and advancement of Maxillofacial Prosthetics and Reconstructive Science.

The foundations of the IMPT were established during the post war period immediately following the Second World War. Laboratory staff working in regional oral surgery units alongside their dental and medically qualified surgical colleagues met for mutual support and to establish relevant qualifications. During the late 1950s this developing group became a formal '*Association*' of like-minded colleagues who organised their first scientific congress in 1963. The Institute of Maxillofacial Technicians (IMT) evolved into the IMPT.

The IMPT is the UK professional body for Maxillofacial Prosthetists and Reconstructive Scientists. It works in collaboration with national agencies in the UK including the Higher Education Institutes (HEI's), the National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS - hold academic curricula), the Academy of Healthcare Science (AHCS - oversight of the NSHCS), Health Education England (HEE), NHS Education Scotland (NES), Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), Health & Social Care Board (NI) and the Department of Health (UK). The organisation also holds close ties with other professional bodies such as the British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (BAOMS). These relationships are essential for our organisation to further develop the profession.

Key objectives of the IMPT are:

- Promote and support the primary education and training in Maxillofacial Prosthetics and Reconstructive Science
- Provide continued professional development opportunities to develop new skills, improve professional standards and advance academic knowledge
- Encourage academic and clinical knowledge transfer through improved networks to enhance patient safety and care
- Ensure professional standards of behaviour
- Advise and liaise with other professional healthcare organisations and regulators

This document is written guidance for individuals who wish to apply and register with the organisation at one of its categories of membership.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

There are different categories of membership. Each reflects the training, education and accredited scientific practice required for entry to the register.

Certain levels of membership require sponsorship in support of an application to the register. Sponsors are required to be Members or Fellows who are in good standing with the IMPT.

### 2.1 Associate

An individual who is interested in this field of work and wants to be associated/affiliated with the profession. The applicant may be a commercial partner, an undergraduate interested in a career in the profession or a member of another professional group e.g., allied health professional (AHP), nurse, healthcare scientist, surgeon, or dentist. **This level is NOT the level of membership assessed as competent for clinical practice in the UK.**

There is no requirement to be sponsored for your application. The IMPT Registrar will assess the application to advance the application. This level of membership is bound by yearly subscription and is availed to the incumbent until that subscription ceases.

### 2.2 Overseas Affiliate

An individual who has satisfied the requirements to practice as a Maxillofacial Prosthetist (or equivalent title e.g., Anaplastologist) in their country of origin. They will be able to produce the documentation of their national training, education, and certification from their own professional body/organisation e.g., IASPE in Europe or the IAA in the United States. **This record of attainment is NOT a recognition of equivalence or competence for clinical practice in the UK.**

There is no requirement to be sponsored for your application. The IMPT Registrar will assess the application to advance the application. This level of membership is bound by yearly subscription and is availed to the incumbent until that subscription ceases.

## 2.3 Member in Training

A Member in Training (MIT) is an applicant who is currently studying a recognised postgraduate training programme to practice Maxillofacial Prosthetics/Reconstructive Science in the UK (Section 4.3 – Training Programme).

MIT's, on successful completion of training, will be eligible to join the IMPT as a Member. Applicants must meet the requirements of the register through the Assessment Interview Board (Section 3.0 - AIB).

The training must have been undertaken in an accredited (AHCS accredits STP placements) UK hospital unit. To validate the training, there is a requirement to be sponsored by two existing Members or Fellows of the IMPT. The IMPT Registrar will assess the application. This level of membership is bound by yearly subscription and is availed to the incumbent until that subscription ceases.

## 2.4 Member

**Member of the IMPT (MIMPT) is awarded to an applicant who has successfully completed a recognised UK training programme and meets the basic requirements to practice safely as a Maxillofacial Prosthetist or Reconstructive Scientist in the UK.**

There is a requirement to be sponsored by two existing Members or Fellows of the IMPT. These members will be able to authenticate that the applicant has completed training and is competent and safe to practice. They must also be employed/practicing as a Maxillofacial Prosthetist or Reconstructive Scientist. The application will be assessed by the Assessment Interview Board (AIB), and the AIB panel will make a final decision. This level of membership is bound by yearly subscription and is availed to the incumbent until that subscription ceases.

## 2.5 Fellow

Fellowship of the IMPT (FIMPT) is awarded to successful MIMPT applicants who are practicing at Consultant level, a leader, and role model for the profession and national expert in their particular field or specialism.

Fellows are expected to be working at the most advanced level of clinical practice, demonstrating leadership and influence at national/international level, through teaching, training, and advancing the reputation of the specialism (see IMPT Fellowship Application Guidance document).

The IMPT Registrar assess the application. The IMPT Council make the decision to advance the application. This level of membership is bound by yearly subscription and is availed to the incumbent until that subscription ceases.

## 2.6 Honorary Status

This level of membership shall be awarded to individuals who have made contributions beyond the regular duties associated with professional membership of the association or to distinguished persons of other organisations who have made significant contributions to the profession. Honorary status can be bestowed at Member or Fellow level. This level of membership is not bound by yearly subscription and is available to the incumbent for the remainder of their working career. The holder will be able to access IMPT events as a member but hold no voting rights. On retirement from their profession the holder will relinquish the title.

The IMPT Registrar will assess the recommendation and the IMPT Council make a final decision to advance the recommendation.

## 2.7 Retired Status

A registrant, on retirement from work e.g., reached retirement age or ill health retirement can apply for retired status. This allows our membership the opportunity to stay connected to the profession. Retired members offer the IMPT a wealth of knowledge. To be eligible for this category of membership they would not be practicing, in employment (full or part time), in Maxillofacial Prosthetics or Reconstructive Science.

If a Retired Member/Fellow subsequently regains employment, then they will be expected to meet the requirements of the register at the level they retired from. For example, restoration to the register as a Member or Fellow will incur corresponding membership fees and the requirements of statutory registration but will not require an AIB.

This level of membership is bound by yearly subscription and is available to the incumbent until that subscription ceases.

## **3. ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW BOARD (AIB)**

The AIB is a peer reviewed assessment of an applicants' suitability to register at the level of Member. The AIB is used to confirm an applicant's competence to practice safely. Patient safety is the primary concern of the panel. The process examines equivalence to the current national training standards and as such allows for a breadth of accredited and historic training routes. Diversity in accredited scientific and clinical practice through training and academic qualifications are acknowledged. Professional conduct and Fitness to Practice will be reviewed.

Please see the AIB documentation for further information (*AIB Application Guidance Document*).

#### **4. EDUCATION TRAINING & REGISTRATION**

Educational standards and the professional training for each of the levels of membership of the IMPT differ dependent upon the level of clinical and professional responsibility and risk to the patient.

Healthcare regulation is designed to assure and protect patients, the public and employers that registered practitioners are appropriately qualified, competent, and safe to practice. The education requirements of the IMPT at the various levels of membership are recognised standards throughout the United Kingdom. These educational standards provide significant public protection from unprofessional or unethical behaviour.

##### **4.1 Statutory Registration**

Statutory registration and regulation of Maxillofacial Prosthetists and Reconstructive Scientists has always been a goal of the IMPT. The IMPT is not a regulator but a professional body. At those levels of membership that are actively treating patients (Member or Fellow) statutory registration is compulsory to maintain good standing with the IMPT and remain on the register. Any changes to your statutory registration status must be revealed to the IMPT Registrar.

Individual members will hold statutory and voluntary registrations dependent on multiple factors including training, responsibility, and their own diverse clinical practice. Those members who undertake as part of their role the scope of practice of a Dental Technician must hold statutory registration with the General Dental Council (GDC). A member practising as a Clinical Scientist (Reconstructive Scientist) must be registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC). A Fellow working as a Consultant Clinical Scientist will be statutory registered as a Higher Specialist Scientist with the Academy of Healthcare Science (AHCS- Higher Scientist Register- HSR).

##### **4.2 Equivalent Historical Qualifications**

Education requirements for entry to a register must be flexible and the IMPT recognise the value of historical equivalent training. All historical equivalent qualifications will be considered for the appropriate level of membership. Equivalence to the current standard will be assessed by the AIB panel.



### 4.3 National Training Programme

The national UK training programme for Maxillofacial Prosthetists/Reconstructive Scientists was established under the UK Governments Modernising Scientific Careers (MSC) review (2008). MSC was a UK-wide education and training strategy for the whole healthcare science workforce in the NHS and associated bodies. MSC introduced a clear and coherent career pathway and structure for the healthcare science workforce. Aspects of the programme cover every step of the career pathway, and include education, training, and workforce planning.

#### 4.3.1 Scientist Training Programme (STP)

The STP is a three-year master's level (level 7) training programme run by the National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS). The structured course is based on an approved curriculum, written by the profession, Higher Education Institutes (HEI's) and ratified through a formal process by the IMPT, NSHCS and AHCS. STP includes work-based modules in accredited training units/hospitals, and completion of a Master of Science (MSc) degree.

On completion of the training the applicant must hold both components of training to satisfy the IMPT register to apply at the category of Member:

- Work based clinical competency; Certificate of Attainment (AHCS)
- Academic competency: MSc Reconstructive Science (Kings College London)

#### 4.3.2 Distance Learning Programme

These programs were established to provide other routes to professional registration. The IMPT recognise equivalent training routes are vital to the profession as they provide flexibility to those who may not be eligible for the STP programme. The distance learning route should be full or part time, be based at an accredited training unit and be at an academic level equivalent to the current national programme e.g., STP Level 7. The study modules of the programme must reflect those of the national programme to be considered equivalent. Equivalence will be assessed by the AIB panel.

### 4.4 Accredited Scientific Practice (ASP)

The Accredited Scientific Practice (ASP) programmes enable employers to develop bespoke short courses to meet the training needs within the Healthcare Science workforce.

An ASP programme involves work-based learning with academic study of modules from the NSHCS portfolio programmes providing a quality assured, rigorously assessed training course. Completion of an ASP programme allows voluntary registration with the Academy for Healthcare Sciences (AHCS). The voluntary register is currently of professions at the Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) level. Equivalence for the applicant's level of membership will be assessed by the AIB panel.

## **5. COUNCIL APPROVAL**

All applications will be carefully considered by the IMPT Registrar on initial receipt. Guidance will be provided against the set criteria for the level of membership to be applied. After consideration and assessment an application may also require proposal to the IMPT Council for final advancement to the register. The role of Council is not to consider the application but to ratify the process of assessment has been correctly applied.

## **6. VOTING RIGHTS**

Every member of the IMPT will be entitled to attend meetings including the Annual General Meetings (AGM). On occasion the IMPT will raise matters that require the membership to vote to accept, reject or abstain on the specific proposal. Voting rights are reserved for Members or Fellows only. All other membership categories are classified as a non-voting. Further information on voting rights can be found in the IMPT *Articles of Association* (AOA).

## **7. CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Every member has a right to cancel their membership for several reasons. Please see the refunds and cancellation document as well as the career break policy

### **7.1 Refund or Cancellation**

A request for a refund or cancellation should be made in writing or e-mail to the Registrar of the IMPT. To handle your request effectively, we request that you inform us as to why you require a refund or wish to cancel your subscription.

If an annual subscription cancellation request is received and acknowledged before the subscription deadline (March 31<sup>st</sup>) or in the preceding 14 Days (cooling off period) you will get your money back in full. After 14 days of the subscription due date, you will not receive a refund and will continue to receive the benefits of that subscription until March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

## 7.2 Extended Break in Membership

The IMPT recognises that members may require an extended break from membership for a variety of reasons (see IMPT Career Break policy).

## 7.3 Reinstatement to the Register

If the break from the register (7.2) is more than 3 years as stated in the IMPT Career Break policy, then the member will need to apply to the AIB Chair for a new assessment of competency and professional practice compliance e.g., CPD and statutory registration completed.

## 8. DOCUMENT VALIDATION

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