

Statutes¹

International Forestry Students' Association

§ 1 Name, seat and year

1. The association is named "International Forestry Students' Association", "IFSA".
2. The association has its seat in Freiburg/Breisgau (Germany), where it is registered under German law and received the extension "e.V."
3. The fiscal year of the association coincides with the Gregorian calendar year.
4. The "IFSA year" or "IFSA term" begins and ends with the closure of the ordinary session of the General Assembly.

§ 2 Purpose

The purpose of IFSA is to:

- a) Enrich the formal education of students of forestry and related sciences, developing global perspectives through extracurricular activities and the exchange of information and experiences, such as the International Forestry Students' Symposium (hereafter referred to as IFSS), seminars and publications.
- b) Contribute to a more complete professional preparation for students of forestry and related sciences.
- c) Promote cultural understanding, cooperation and networking amongst students of forestry and related sciences, the professional forestry sector and other sectors.
- d) Encourage improvements in higher education for students of forestry and related sciences internationally to the benefit of all students.

§ 3 Non-profit status

1. IFSA pursues exclusively and directly purposes of a registered charity in the sense of the chapter "tax-favoured purposes" in the German tax regulations.
2. IFSA works without self-interest, it does not primarily pursue lucrative purposes of its own.
3. IFSA is a non-discriminatory and politically independent association with no religious affiliation.
4. IFSA's funds are to be used only for purposes according to these statutes.
5. Members do not receive gifts out of the association's funds. Nobody must be favoured by expenses that are not in accordance with the association's purposes or by disproportionate compensations.
6. The organs of the association (§ 5) can exercise their activity for a reasonable remuneration. If necessary, officials can receive payment in the context of budgetary possibilities on the basis of a service contract. The decision on a payment of an official is done by the GA. The same applies to the contract contents and conditions.

§ 4 Membership

1. IFSA has four kinds of members:
 - a) Ordinary members
 - b) Associate members
 - c) Consulting members
 - d) Honorary members².
2. Members of IFSA can be natural persons, legal entities or unions of persons.
3. The Council decides on admission of ordinary and associate members upon application. Consulting and honorary members are appointed by the General Assembly (GA).

¹ Note: This is a translation of the statutes of the International Forestry Students' Association e.V. (IFSA), which is an association registered under German law. Therefore, in case of any doubt, the German version of the statutes is binding.

² Honorary members are appointed by the IFSA GA and managed by the IFSA Supporter and Alumni Network (IFSA SAN; support-ifsa.net).

4. Membership ends with:
 - a) Dissolution or death of the member
 - b) Cancellation by the member with a written message to the Board
 - c) Expulsion by the GA with a 75% majority if the member has seriously violated the association's interests. Before putting this decision to the GA, the concerned member must be given an occasion to justify their behaviour, in person or in writing/video. There is no possibility of an appeal after the decision of the GA.
 - d) Expulsion by the Board when a member does not pay the membership fees. The decision on expulsion must be announced to the concerned member.
5. Ordinary and associate members are required to pay annual membership fees, which must be paid in advance of the IFSA year to come. The membership fees are fixed within the Rules of Procedure. Consulting and honorary members are exempted from fees.

§ 5 Organs

1. IFSA has the following organs:
 - a) The General Assembly
 - b) The Board.

§ 6 Rules of Procedure

1. IFSA has Rules of Procedure (RoP), which are formalized by the GA.
2. The RoP are not part of the statutes.

§ 7 General Assembly (GA)

1. The GA shall meet a minimum of once per fiscal year. On behalf of the Board, the Executive Secretary convokes the GA at least four weeks prior to the meeting, via email invitations sent to the members last known email addresses.
2. The invitation must include a convocation letter stating the date and the location of the GA, as well as the provisional GA agenda. Agenda proposals arriving at the Board after the invitation has been sent are not accepted.
3. An additional GA can be convoked at any time by the Direction or on written request including purpose and reasons to the Direction by a group of ordinary members constituting no less than 30% of all ordinary members.
4. The GA has the following duties:
 - a) Appointing a chairperson and keeper of the minutes
 - b) Approving the Direction's proposed budget for the following IFSA year,
 - c) Receiving the IFSA Annual Report by the Board and officials
 - d) Finalizing the value of the annual membership fee
 - e) Making decisions on alterations to the statutes
 - f) Making decisions on alterations to the rules of procedure
 - g) Discharging, electing, and appointing members of the Board
 - h) Discharging, electing, and appointing officials
 - i) Deciding on the location of the IFSS
 - j) Appointing consulting and honorary members
 - k) Deciding on the dissolution of IFSA
 - l) Deciding on forming other bodies
5. Only ordinary members, who have paid their membership fee for the upcoming IFSA year, have voting rights.
6. Ordinary members not present at the GA may transfer their right to vote to another ordinary member present by written message to the Board prior to the GA opening. No member can have more than three votes (maximum = own vote + two transferred votes). All transferred votes are to be included in the quorum.
7. The GA is competent to make general decisions with a quorum of 25% of the ordinary members entitled to vote.
8. Alterations on the statutes, purpose and rules of procedure require a minimum quorum of 30% of all the ordinary members entitled to vote with 75% majority of the valid given votes.

9. The chairperson of the GA decides on the method of decision making. Decisions are secret on request of one present member entitled to vote. Elections are secret.
10. Decisions of the GA must be recorded within the minutes. The minutes must be signed by the chairperson of the GA and the keeper of the minutes. They must state the location, date, start and end time of the GA, the chairperson of the GA, the keeper of minutes, number of members present and enabled to vote, and quorum percentage, the agenda, the decision-making process and the decision results. The minutes are published on the IFSA website.

§ 8 Board

1. To be eligible, a member of the Board must be a member of an ordinary member enabled to vote, or has finished their course(s) no longer than one year prior and have been recognized as a member of an ordinary member at the time. Members of the Board are annually elected by the GA and remain in office until the successive Board is elected.
2. The Board, also called the "IFSA7", consists of direction and council:
 - a) The IFSA Direction is comprised of:
 - i) President,
 - ii) Vice-President,
 - iii) Treasurer, and
 - iv) Executive Secretary.
 - b) The IFSA Council is comprised of three councilors.
3. IFSA is legally represented, both judicially and extrajudicially, by two members of the Direction together. For the submission of changes in the Board positions and statutes at the register of associations, one Direction member may represent IFSA alone.
4. The tasks of the Board are fixed in the Rules of Procedure.

§ 9 Officials and commissions

1. In the strategic work of IFSA, the Board is helped by a set of officials and commissions/sub-commissions.
2. IFSA has the following officials:
 - a) Liaison Officers (LOs),
 - b) Regional Representatives (RRs) and
 - c) Heads of Commissions (HoC) and Sub-Commissions (HoSC).
3. The tasks of the officials and commissions/sub-commissions are fixed in the Rules of Procedure.

§ 10 Dissolution of IFSA

1. The dissolution of IFSA can only be decided upon by a GA convoked especially for that purpose.
2. The decision to dissolve IFSA mandates a minimum quorum of 70% of all ordinary members enabled to vote with a simple majority of no fewer than 50% plus one authorized votes.
3. Two members of the Direction together are entitled to act as liquidators if the GA does not decide differently.
4. The regulations above are correspondingly valid in the case of dissolution due to alternate reasons or the loss of legal capacity or legality.
5. In case of dissolution or abolition of IFSA or removal of its tax-favoured purposes, IFSA's possessions devolve upon "AFS/Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V." (Hamburg) exclusively and directly for purposes of registered charity and purposes of international student matters.