



ICN Membership FAQs

What is the International Council of Nurses?

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses' associations (NNAs), representing the more than 27 million nurses worldwide. Founded in 1899, ICN is the world's first and widest reaching international organisation for health professionals. Operated by nurses and leading nurses internationally, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all, sound health policies globally, the advancement of nursing knowledge, and the presence worldwide of a respected nursing profession and a competent and satisfied nursing workforce.

Who can join ICN?

ICN works directly with its member associations on issues of importance to the nursing profession. There is no individual membership to ICN. Nurses who are part of their national nurses' association are automatically part of ICN. If your NNA is not yet a member of ICN, why not contact them to see if they are considering or working toward membership?

Why should my association join?

By joining ICN, a national nursing association becomes part of the global voice for nursing that has been advocating for nurses at the highest policy tables in the world for over 120 years. As well as having a long-standing, global reputation, ICN is the only nursing association to work closely with the World Health Organization since its founding. We are regularly invited to take part in meetings, strategic advisory groups, steering committees etc. As such, we have a high amount of impact and influence on the global stage – and your organisation can be part of this too!

How much does it cost?

Membership fees are based on World Bank categories which determine if a country is high/middle/low income. A member association pays a rate based on the number of nurses it has in its membership. The range of rates per member is from about 1.0 to 2.6 Swiss francs per member per year – less than one cup of coffee! In addition, ICN applies a cap on fees so that no one member association pays more than 10% of ICN's total membership dues income.

What does our NNA get in return?

By joining ICN, national nursing associations become part of the ICN family of nurses. You will find the lists of benefits [here](#). ICN members take part in ICN webinars, surveys, discussions and meetings to help shape the global nursing strategy and improve working conditions and health outcomes in their own countries and beyond. Members have access to the highest policy-making tables around the world and to ICN's expertise and long-standing reputation. Working together, ICN members help to build nursing leadership and strengthen the profession around the world. Members can host, take part in, and receive reduced rates to ICN events, and contribute to ICN position statements and publications, including our International Nurses Day resources which are used across the globe. Your members can also receive ICN educational credits, receive online discounts for educational resources and nominate nurses for ICN Awards. Finally, as an ICN members, you will be invited to take part in our biennial meeting of the Council of National Nursing Association Representatives, the governing body of ICN and sets policy at the macro level, including admission of members, election of the Board of Directors, amendments to the constitution, and setting of fees.

How can ICN help us influence health policy?

Nursing and Health Policy is at the centre of what we do. Ensuring that nurses have a voice in the development and implementation of health policy is fundamental to ensuring these policies are effective and meet the real needs of patients, families and communities around the world.

ICN has been in official relations with WHO since its founding in 1948. As such, ICN is regularly called on to take part in working groups, make interventions, and provide nursing expertise to high-level international development. We are the only global nursing organisation to have the right to make interventions at the World Health Assembly – WHO's governing body. Our President and CEO have a close relationship with the Director General of WHO and the WHO Chief Nursing Officer, who regularly take part in our events, including webinars, Congresses and other meetings.

In addition, we work closely with other organisations such as the World Bank, the International Labour Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

When requested by our members, ICN writes to governmental leaders to speak on behalf of nurses. As an example, ICN wrote this year to the Presidents of Zimbabwe, Mexico and Guatemala to advocate for the protection of nurses during the pandemic.

How does ICN benefit the nurses in our country?

Nurses who are members of your national nursing association are considered ICN members and therefore get many benefits. These are listed in detail in our [Membership Benefits brochure](#), but include reduced rates to attend ICN Congresses and Conferences and the opportunity to submit abstracts to these global events; access to the latest media releases and publications on a variety of topics important to nursing; and continuing educational opportunities and credits. We offer opportunities to network and work with nurses from other countries and make a real impact on nursing not just in your own country or region, but across the globe. If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we must all work together: Global really is Local!

For more information on how to join, email membership@icn.ch

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