

# Membership

## *MEMBERSHIP*

The Council on Foreign Relations is first and foremost a membership organization. CFR members are prominent individuals representing a wide variety of fields and backgrounds. With more than five thousand members, the institution's ranks include top government officials, scholars, business leaders, journalists, lawyers, educators, religious leaders, and nonprofit professionals. The membership is divided almost equally among those living in New York, Washington, DC, and across the country and abroad.

Members have in-person access to world leaders, senior government officials, members of Congress, and prominent thinkers and practitioners in academia, policy, and business, many of whom are members themselves. CFR members participate in nearly one thousand events each year, including history-maker interviews, CEO forums, expert panel discussions, symposia, town halls, and film screenings.

## *STEPHEN M. KELLEN TERM MEMBER PROGRAM*

The Stephen M. Kellen Term Member Program, established in 1970 to cultivate the next generation of foreign policy leaders, encourages promising young women and men from diverse backgrounds to engage in a sustained conversation on international affairs and U.S. foreign policy. Each year, a new class of term members between the ages of thirty and thirty-six is elected to serve a five-year term. Term members enjoy a full range of activities, including events with high-profile speakers; an annual Term Member Conference; roundtables; trips to various sites, including military bases, international organizations, and U.S. governmental agencies; and one weeklong study trip abroad every two years.

The Term Member Program has grown considerably since it was established more than forty years ago, and the number of term members is indexed at up to 18 percent of the total CFR membership.

*For more information on the Term Member Program, please visit [www.cfr.org/about/term\\_member\\_program](http://www.cfr.org/about/term_member_program).*

## *APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP*

The Council seeks quality, diversity, and balance in its membership. Criteria for membership include intellectual achievement and expertise; degree of experience, interest, and current involvement in international affairs; promise of future achievement and service in foreign relations; potential contributions to CFR's work; desire and ability to participate in CFR activities; and standing among peers. New members are named twice a year by the Board of Directors, which invites select women and men to join based on the recommendations of the Committee on Membership.

## *ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS*

Candidates for membership must be nominated in writing by a current CFR member and seconded by three to four other individuals. To be considered for term membership, candidates must be nominated by a current CFR member and seconded by two to three other individuals.

Membership is restricted to U.S. citizens (native born or naturalized) and permanent residents who have applied to become citizens. If foreign born, a candidate must submit a statement that he or she has been naturalized or is a permanent resident who has made formal application for citizenship.

Candidates for term membership must be between the ages of thirty and thirty-six on January 1 of the year in which they apply.

#### TO APPLY

Candidates should email [applications@cfr.org](mailto:applications@cfr.org) to request the online application for membership. All materials, including nominating and seconding letters, must be submitted using the online application. The email should include the following information:

- full name
- title and affiliation
- date of birth
- citizenship status (see Eligibility Requirements)
- type of membership for which the candidate is applying
- date or dates of any previous applications for membership, if applicable
- email address to which the link to the online application should be sent

*For more information on the membership application process, please visit [www.cfr.org/about/membership](http://www.cfr.org/about/membership).*

#### NOMINATING AND SECONDING A CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Council on Foreign Relations relies on its members for their engagement, substantive contributions, and support, and counts on members to identify and nominate or second qualified candidates for membership. Membership development efforts are focused on recognizing and attracting diverse leaders in international affairs across all sectors.

Candidates are responsible for securing their nominators and seconders. The roster of members is listed in the following section and is regularly updated at [www.cfr.org/about/membership/roster.html](http://www.cfr.org/about/membership/roster.html). All letter writers are advised to commit themselves to supporting only those candidates they know personally. The first paragraph of nominating and seconding letters must include a clear and comprehensive statement about the nature of the relationship between the candidate and the letter writer. Thoughtful, candid, and succinct comments are far more important than formal endorsements. The Committee on Membership advises members to write no more than two letters per round (either one nominating and one seconding letter or two seconding letters), and members are encouraged to make comparative judgments about candidates when appropriate. It is recommended that at least one letter come from a current or former professional colleague.

#### NOMINATING LETTERS

Candidates must be nominated by a CFR member. Nominating letters should be no more than five hundred words and should address the following criteria, which have always been central to the committee's consideration of membership candidates:

- intellectual attainment and expertise;
- degree of experience, interest, and current involvement in international affairs or in other areas affecting international affairs;
- promise of future achievement and service in foreign relations;
- potential contributions to the work of CFR;
- desire and ability to participate in CFR activities; and
- standing among peers.

#### SECONDING LETTERS

Seconding letters need not be as comprehensive (no more than three hundred words) and are not required to come from current CFR members, though this is strongly recommended. Writers are encouraged to state why the candidate should be considered for CFR membership based on the above criteria with an emphasis on "standing among peers." Seconding letters should also provide relevant information that might not be included in a candidate's CV or nominating letter.

#### ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS TO CONSIDER

- Officers of CFR as well as members of the Board of Directors and Committee on Membership are precluded from nominating or writing seconding letters on any candidate's behalf.
- Members of the Subcommittee on Term Membership are precluded from nominating or writing seconding letters on behalf of candidates for term membership.
- A spouse, close relative (e.g., parent, sibling, cousin, or the like), or near in-law of a candidate may not formally nominate or second that candidate for CFR membership. Members should refrain from writing on behalf of clients.

- CFR visiting fellows are prohibited from applying for membership until they have completed their fellowship tenure.
- Graduate students should generally wait until after the completion of their degree to apply for membership.
- All CFR members are required to fulfill annual dues requirements, which can be found online at [www.cfr.org/memberdues](http://www.cfr.org/memberdues).

*DEADLINES, CANDIDATE NOTIFICATION, AND REACTIVATION*

Applications not completed by the deadlines will not be considered. To apply for a future deadline, candidates must request and complete a new application. All membership candidates and their letter writers will receive notification of the committee’s decisions according to the schedule below:

	<i>APPLICATION DEADLINE</i>	<i>NOTIFICATION</i>
Membership	March 1 (annually)	late June
	November 1 (annually)	late February
Term Membership	January 3, 2017	late June

*APPLICATION REACTIVATION REQUIREMENTS*

A candidate who is not elected in any given application round will have his or her file held over. The candidate may choose to reactivate an application for future consideration. To do so, he or she must email [applications@cfr.org](mailto:applications@cfr.org) and specify the date or dates of previous applications, as well as the type of membership for which he or she is reapplying.

The candidate is required to complete an updated CV through a new online application. The new CV should specify any significant changes since the previous application.

The candidate must secure a minimum of one and a maximum of three additional seconding letters. Additional letters should provide new insights that would be helpful in the selection process. It is not required that seconding letters come from current CFR members, but it is strongly recommended.

The original nominating letter as well as seconding letters submitted in previous applications will remain on file for a period of ten years. Previous letter writers may provide new letters only when new content is included.

If a candidate is not elected after two consecutive application rounds, the application will be placed on hold for three years for membership candidates and one year for term membership candidates. After the hold period, the candidate may reactivate the file for consideration. For term membership applicants, the hold period does not apply if a candidate would be ineligible to reapply due to the age restriction.

*For more information on nominating a candidate or to learn more about applying for membership, please contact Nancy D. Bodurtha, vice president, meetings and membership, at 212.434.9456 or [applications@cfr.org](mailto:applications@cfr.org).*

### *PROFILE OF THE MEMBERSHIP*

Since July 2015, CFR membership has grown by 2.95 percent, from 4,983 to 5,038 members, as of June 30, 2016. Member records are maintained by CFR at 58 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065.

	<i>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERSHIP</i>
Location		
National	1,549	37
New York Area	1,882	32
Washington, DC, Area	1,607	31
Total	5,038	100
Industry		
Education	1,065	21
Nonprofit and International Organizations	899	18
Financial Institutions	757	15
Law and Consulting	673	13
Government	562	11
Media and News Services	334	7
Commerce	151	3
Information Technology	102	2
Energy and Power	31	1
Medicine and Health Care	29	1
Other	435	8
Total	5,038	100