



Procedure and requirements for admission

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Introduction

The Young Academy of Europe (YAE) is a group of leading European young scholars. The mission of the YAE focuses on (but is not limited to):

- **Science policy:** The YAE acts as a voice for young researchers by actively reaching out to policy makers in an attempt to contribute to science policy and contribute to the development of a European science agenda for the coming decades.
- **Interdisciplinary exchange:** The YAE aims to function as a European platform fostering interdisciplinary and international scientific exchange, collaboration, and knowledge transfer amongst its members and beyond borders.
- **Science communication:** The YAE encourages young scientists to communicate their research to the general public with emphasis on scientific and scholarly issues affecting society, quality of life, and standard of living in Europe.
- **Networking:** The YAE fosters efficient communication to strengthen solidarity and networking activities amongst young researchers in Europe in order to create a pool of information, pass on experience, provide feedback, and support current colleagues and future generations of leading scientists across Europe.

The Young Academy of Europe maintains a **close affiliation with the Academia Europaea** (AE) in order to stimulate collaboration and exchange within and across fields and scientific generations.

1. Admission procedureⁱ

A new potential member must be **nominated by a current Member of YAE or AE** or may nominate him- or herself. A complete **nomination dossier** consists of the following documents, combined into one PDF file:

- A brief **curriculum vitae** of the candidate (max. 3 pages). The c.v. should also contain the candidate's contact information, date of birth and citizenship(s);
- A copy of the candidate's **doctorate certificate**;

ⁱ A special procedure exists for members of European National Young Academies, whose members can be nominated directly by the President of the respective National Young Academy to the YAE Board (see 2. Eligibility criteria).



- A **motivation letter** by the candidate, which outlines why he/she wants to join YAE and how he/she intends to contribute to the activities of YAE (1–2 pages);
- **Reference letters of two Members** of YAE or AE from different countries in support of the candidate.

At its discretion, the Selection Committee may accept one support letter from a member of a prestigious academy who is neither a member of YAE nor of AE.

Nominations are accepted only via the **web form** provided on the YAE website <http://yacadeuro.org/join-us/>. Incomplete dossiers or documents exceeding the indicated page limits will not be processed.

Nominations will be assessed by the YAE Selection Committee on a rolling basis throughout the year. The YAE Selection Committee is composed of the Chair and two Vice-Chairs, representing the three Domains (LS, PE, SH). In assessing the nominations, the YAE Selection Committee may request the assistance of other Members of YAE as well as independent specialists.

The Selection Committee will make a recommendation to the full YAE Board on whether to admit each nominee, based on the eligibility criteria outlined below. The final decision on the admission of new Members is taken by the YAE Board.

Following the completion of the selection procedure, the Chair of the YAE Selection Committee will inform the nominee, the nominator and the supporting Members of the final decision. Members will automatically become alumni after a set number of years, as determined by the YAE as a whole (currently 5 years). The names of all YAE Members and Alumni are published on the YAE website.

2. Membership eligibility criteria

As of 1 January 2014, all excellent scholars currently working in one of the States comprising the European Research Areaⁱⁱ may be nominated for membership in the Young Academy of Europe. YAE shares the objectives of the ERC and AE to widen the participation across Europe (especially Central and Eastern Europe), across the disciplines ('hard' science versus humanities and social sciences), and to promote gender balance.

ⁱⁱ The Member States of the European Union, plus Associated Countries as defined by ERC application rules, currently including, but for the future not limited to: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine and Turkey.



As of 9 February 2017, having been selected as member of a European National Young Academies (ENYAs) may be considered as having passed the criteria for YAE membership, at the discretion of the YAE Board. Presidents of these ENYAs may propose candidates directly to the YAE Board, together with their CVs and short statement of motivation for joining the YAE.

At any point in time, especially in times with a foreseen decline in membership because of members becoming alumni, the YAE Board may prepare a President's List of suitable candidates and invite them directly to become member. The regular procedures will be followed with two support letters necessary, with one exception: no motivation letter is obligatory, merely recommended.

Candidates must have **obtained their doctorate less than 12 years ago** (as of the date of the nomination). Credit will be given for time spent caring for children (12 months per child for women, actual time taken off for men), as well as for national service.

The **scientific excellence** of the candidates will be the prime admission criterion. The internationally leading scientific quality of its Members is a prerequisite for the achievement of YAE's goals. Furthermore, the credibility of YAE's work program, advice to policy makers and policy documents hinges on the reputation of its Members. The Selection Committee will assess a nominee's scientific excellence as it is **recognized by his or her peers**. Therefore, the Committee will consider a candidate's publication record in peer-reviewed journals or monographs, the academic position he or she has attained, as well as major research funding awarded by European or national funding agencies. The YAE Selection Committee maintains a list of EU and national third-party funding schemes (by country) which help assess a Nominee's scientific excellence, independence, and leadership abilities.

Further assessment criteria will be the nominee's **leadership abilities** (as demonstrated, for instance, by leading an own research group) and **scientific independence** (as evidenced, for instance, by a publication record independent from academic mentors). Finally, candidates should have shown an interest in **pan-European or international cooperation** and science policy, as well as have spent significant time abroad (at least 12 months) for study or research.

For the realization of its goals, YAE relies on the contributions of all Members. Therefore, the Selection Committee will also assess whether it expects that the nominee will **actively participate** in YAE in the future.

The specific criteria that apply to the three domains of the YAE are detailed in the following sections. If one of the listed quantitative criteria is not fully met, a candidate may demonstrate by other documented means that they meets the corresponding membership requirements.



If it is found that the decision to admit a new Member was based on incorrect or incomplete documentation supplied by the candidate, the YAE Board may repeal a Membership once these circumstances become known.

3. Specific criteria for the LS Domain

Scientific excellence should be demonstrated along the following criteria:

- **Publication record:** Candidates are expected to have published several papers as first or senior author in leading international peer-reviewed journals and to have a competitive h-index.
- **Scientific recognition, grant funding and academic awards:** It is expected that candidates should have displayed scientific independence and excellence, as for example through competitive and prestigious European or national research grants or academic awards.
- **International visibility:** Candidates should be internationally visible, e.g. reflected in invitations as invited/Keynote/Plenary speakers or session Chairs at international conferences, memberships of editorial boards and international collaborations.
- **Leadership skills:** Candidates should be independent leaders of their own research group and have experience in supervising Ph.D. students and postdoctoral research fellows as principal adviser.

4. Specific criteria for the PE Domain

In the Physical Sciences and in Engineering, candidates will have demonstrated their suitability to become YAE Members by their strong publication record, invitations received to speak at international workshops and conferences, evidence of attracting substantial highly competitive research funding, as well as leadership of a research group.

- **Publications:** Candidates should have a strong publication record commensurate with their career stage. Their list of publications should include a minimum of 5 publications in the top journals for their field.
- **Grants:** It is expected that candidates should have received at least one high-quality/high-level European or national research grant, such as an ERC Starting or Consolidator Grant or equivalent grants such as independent fellowshipsⁱⁱⁱ. As part of such a grant program, a candidate should have fulfilled the leadership role (i.e. principle

ⁱⁱⁱ examples: Ramón y Cajal, Vidi, Royal Society Research Fellowships, etc. see national funding bodies



investigator) for a team or collaboration. This leadership role can for instance be demonstrated by having supervised a Ph.D. student as principal adviser.

- Invitations as speaker: Candidates should have received invitations as invited/Key-note/Plenary speaker or session Chairs at leading international workshops or conferences.

5. Specific criteria for the SH Domain

A combination of personal motivation and academic excellence demonstrated by high-quality third party funding and high-quality publications will be needed to identify suitable candidates.

- Publications: A candidate is expected to have published a monograph and two or three articles in high-quality peer-reviewed journals. Even in countries where Ph.D. theses don't have to be published, the publication of these theses increasingly becomes a marker of academic distinction.
- Scientific recognition, grant funding and academic awards: It is expected that candidates should have displayed scientific independence and excellence, as for example through competitive and prestigious European or national research grants or academic awards. As part of such a grant program, a candidate should have fulfilled the leadership role for a team or collaboration. This leadership role can for instance be demonstrated by having supervised a Ph.D. student as principal adviser.

6. Check list

Before submitting your nomination, please make sure it meets the following formal requirements:

- My nomination dossier contains all required documents (c.v., doctorate certificate, motivation letter) and the reference letters from two referees;
- My c.v. is max. 3 pages long (Arial 11 pt, 2 cm margins) and contains my affiliation and contact address, my date of birth and my citizenship(s);
- The indicated referees are members of the YAE or the AE. Exceptionally, one of them may be member of a prestigious academy;
- My motivation letter is 1–2 pages long and includes information on how I intend to contribute to the activities of the YAE.