

AWIS Member Enhancements – 2021

SUMMARY:

AWIS evaluates dues and member benefits on a continual basis to create the strongest possible association and provide support to our members. On June 28, 2021, AWIS will be changing its membership options and upgrading our membership database. The main [AWIS website](#) will not change, but members will see a new membership registration, renewal process, member portal and chapter leader portal.

Frequently Asked Questions

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For additional questions, please contact membership@awis.org.

Q1. Are any of my current membership benefits going away?

No. There are no changes to the benefits you currently receive.

Q2. What are the new level membership options?

- **Student** membership is open to any undergrad, graduate or post-doc at the annual cost of \$35. You can remain a student member for up to 5 years. Proof of enrollment may be required.
- **Early Career** membership will be \$59 per year and is open to anyone starting a career in the sciences. You can remain the early career membership category for up to 10 years.
- **Full** membership is \$149 annually and open to anyone.

Q3. Will dues be going up or down?

The majority of AWIS members will experience a reduction in their overall dues, partly because chapter dues are now included in their membership. It is possible in some cases for membership dues to increase as a member grows in their career (from student to early career, or from early career to full membership).

Q4. Do the different membership options offer different benefits?

No. All the membership options receive the same benefits. The difference between the levels is the dues amount which is reduced for students and early career members.

Q5. Why is AWIS changing the membership categories?

There are several reasons for this change. AWIS is reducing the membership options from six levels to three to simplify and streamline the choices for members. We have added a student option to support women in the earliest stages of their scientific careers when AWIS programs and community can provide crucial support.

Q6. How often does AWIS change dues levels?

The last time the dues levels changed was 2014.

Q7. When does this go into effect, and do I need to do anything?

The new membership levels are effective June 28, 2021. AWIS will update your member profile to reflect the appropriate membership option. Current Junior members will be moved into the Early Career category and all other members will be moved into the Full Member category.

Q8. I just renewed last month at the junior level, but by this description, should probably have a Full Membership. What do I do?

Please contact membership@awis.org and we will update your membership as appropriate.

Q9. I recently renewed and paid more than \$149. What should I do?

If you joined or renewed after April 1, 2021, please contact membership@awis.org and we can extend your dues on a pro-rated basis. Alternatively, we can account for the balance as a donation.

Q10. What if I'm retired? What membership category should I choose?

Please select the full membership level to continue receiving AWIS benefits.

Q11. I was already a student member through my chapter. How does this affect me?

Previously, some chapters offered "chapter only" memberships for students. However, this does not comply with IRS regulations. To have the proper oversight, AWIS bylaws require that anyone who is a member at the chapter level must also be a member at the national level. Moving forward, all members will be required to join and renew through AWIS.org. Simply select Student Membership when you join/renew.

Q12. How will chapters receive dues?

With the new model, all memberships already have chapter dues baked into the price. A full 25% of membership dues will go back to the local chapter of your choosing. This means that \$9 of student memberships, \$15 of early career memberships and \$37 of full memberships will be sent to directly to Chapters.

Q13. What if I don't have a local chapter?

AWIS is working on a number of online options for those without a chapter near them. We will be rolling out virtual chapters and special interest groups soon.

Q14. I received an invitation to become an AWIS member from my employer/institution. How does this affect me?

AWIS Corporate Partners and Institutional Partners and their employees/students will not experience any change in membership level or benefits they are receiving as a result of the changes to the membership model. They will benefit from the new member portal and functionality that it will provide.

Q15. Why is AWIS moving to a new database?

Members had reported difficulties with renewing their membership. The new database will not only alleviate these problems, it will also enhance the member experience with new features like online communities. In addition, the new database offers enhanced reporting and communication features for chapter leaders and AWIS staff.

Q16. What are the new features it will provide?

- Special interest groups
- Listserv capabilities
- Chapter leaders will be able to run real-time roster and demographic reports for their chapter
- Members will have the option to set their account to auto-renew each year.

Q17. Am I losing any features?

No. The new member portal will have similar features to the existing options.

Q18. When will the new database be in place, and do I need to do anything?

The new database will go into effect on June 28, 2021. Member profile information as of May 31, 2021 will automatically move over to the new site. Any member profile changes made after that date will not be carried to the new system.

Q19. I've been meaning to update my profile, can I still do it?

Changes made between now and May 31 will be moved over to the new database. Or you can wait and update your profile in the new database in July.

Q20. Is there training available on how to use the new portal?

Videos and tutorials will be posted on a continual basis, beginning on the launch date of June 28, 2021.