



We invite you to join us and be part of our global community!

Cumulus is the only global association to serve art and design education and research. It is a forum for partnership as well as a platform for exchange of knowledge and best practices.

Since its founding in 1990, Cumulus has been a pioneer in advocating for the vital role artists and designers play in shaping the world we live in. A champion of internationalization, Cumulus is an active network that celebrates the power of learning, creativity, and social engagement with the world.

Cumulus members demonstrate the importance of collaboration in a 21st century landscape of higher education that is increasingly complex and global.

Find out more about Cumulus here: <https://www.cumulusassociation.org/>

Benefits

As a Cumulus member, you'll enjoy many benefits that will connect you to our expansive community.

I. Participate in a global community that is always learning together

Cumulus gives you the platform to meet a diverse community of practice to exchange questions and insights with fellow members in-person and online.

Cumulus enables you to make lasting connections and form international partnerships that will support your mission and inform collaborative thinking in your home institution. Whether it is through global student competitions, Cumulus Working Groups, Cumulus sponsored publications or special initiatives and regional programming, you will leverage your Cumulus membership with like-minded peers who share a commitment to learn beyond borders.

With your participation, we advance the field together, supporting each other along the way.

II. Exchange information with an international network

Publish your institutional profile on the Cumulus homepage, which provides contact information for each of our 340 plus members across all five continents. You'll have the ability to send announcements on seminars, symposia, exhibitions, competitions, job searches and more to the Cumulus website and social media platforms free of charge. Cumulus members are encouraged to be active and are more than welcome to initiate various projects with the whole Cumulus community, other full and associate members, partners and individuals. Cumulus provides a platform for sharing.

You will also be automatically enrolled in our mailing list and our monthly newsletter which features exclusive member content and updates.

III. Experience one-of-a-kind conferences across the world

As a member, you will be invited to have your institutional colleagues (faculty, staff, and students) participate in our two annual conferences co-organized with member institutions on themes that challenge the way we think about art, media and design education and research.

All Cumulus conferences share a common vision: to create learning environments that foster engagement, networking, collaboration and knowledge exchange in an open and friendly atmosphere that celebrates the increasingly diverse and global nature of our association.

IV. Influence Change

Cumulus is first and foremost your association. The Cumulus "family" represents a closely-knit network.

As a full member you can benefit from unique leadership opportunities on a regular basis:

Every year, you will come together during the first conference of the year in the Cumulus General Assembly. The GA is our governing body where full members vote on the priorities of the association, sharing the perspectives that matter most for the future of our disciplines.

Your institution will be invited to consider hosting a Cumulus conference and becoming a special convener of the international community.

Every three years, you will also be invited to bid for a seat on the executive board and/or presidency of the association and actively shape the strategic direction of Cumulus.

Membership Categories

Full Membership

To qualify for full membership, institutions must satisfy the following criteria:

- Be a university, college or academy with Bachelor degree programs or equivalent in art, design or media
- Be actively committed to internationalization and demonstrate evidence of curricular and co-curricular initiatives, and/or research and exchanges that foster an international environment of dialogue and learning
- Be aligned with the Cumulus mission and values of artistic and cultural diversity, access, inclusion and societal engagement
- Be willing to engage in Cumulus activities and conferences
- Pay an annual membership fee

The Cumulus annual membership fee is determined by the General Assembly.
The fees for 2021 are: 1.200€

Associate Membership

To qualify for associate membership, institutions must satisfy the following criteria:

- Be a private sector company, professional association, non-degree granting institution, or promotional association committed to art, design and media.
- Be actively committed to internationalization
- Be aligned with the Cumulus mission and values of artistic and cultural diversity, access, inclusion and societal engagement
- Be willing to engage in /and or advocate for Cumulus members and activities
- Pay an annual membership fee

Associate members pay a yearly fee determined by their profit status and size. The fees for 2021 are:

- Associate members: Non-profit institutions 1.500€
- For profit institutions (>20 employees) 2.000€
- For profit institutions (21-150 employees) 3.000€
- For profit institutions (<151 employees) 5.000€

How to Apply

Cumulus membership inquiries and applications may be submitted on a rolling basis. The application is processed for review as part of one annual intake at the end of each calendar year. **The next deadline is January 15, 2021.** There is no fee to apply.

Full Membership Process

1. Request a membership application form by emailing our Secretariat at cumulus@taik.fi. This form is digital and must be submitted online.

The form includes a set of comprehensive questions pertaining to your institutional mission, the nature of your educational offerings, data about your international exchange programs, and an overview of your operational and financial information.

2. Fill out the endorsement letter digitally. The letter must be submitted with original signature (s) on your official institutional stationary in PDF form as part of your application.

3. Obtain at least 2 recommendation letters from current Cumulus full members in 2 different countries to support your application (only one letter may come from your country). The letters should follow [this template](#) and be signed and submitted in PDF form on institutional stationary.

4. The letter of endorsement and the 2 letters of recommendation must be submitted to cumulus@taik.fi.

Questions?

Please address any questions about membership categories and/or application process to Cumulus Coordinator Anna Lindberg at: anna.lindberg@aalto.fi.

Associate Membership Process*

1. Request a membership application form by emailing our Secretariat at cumulus@taik.fi. This form is digital and must be submitted online.

The form includes a set of comprehensive questions pertaining to your institutional mission and overview of operations and financial information.

2. Fill out and submit the endorsement letter digitally. The letter must be submitted with original signature (s) on your official institutional stationary in PDF form as part of your application to cumulus@taik.fi

3. Recommendation letters are not mandatory for this category but strongly suggested.

**Please note that Associate members have only observer status with the association which precludes them from the leadership and voting rights that full members enjoy. They can however participate in the GA as observers*

Selection Process

Once all application dossiers filed by the deadline are processed by the Secretariat, the Cumulus Executive Board reviews them during their first board meeting of the year. Successful applicants are invited to attend the Cumulus first annual conference and General Assembly of the year, where all members vote to formally welcome them to the association.*

All recommended new members must plan to send a minimum of one representative to receive their membership confirmation. They must also attend the New Members Fair. The New Members Fair is a lively forum and serves as a showcase within the Conference premises for new institutions to present themselves and network with the Cumulus community.

To ensure a sustainable rate of growth for the association, the Executive Board will take into their selection account a current quota of approximately 10% annual growth per year. In addition to adhering to stated eligibility criteria, the board will pay special consideration to applications that may foster growth in membership from unrepresented countries and regions.

**Per transparency governance principles, the Executive Board will disclose rationale for any rejected applicants to the General Assembly.*

Important Dates

January 15, 2021

Application deadline.

February, 2021

Next Executive Board meeting that will review new applicants.

March, 2021

All applicants will be notified of the Executive Board's recommendation for membership.

June, 2021

Applicants positively reviewed will be invited to the Cumulus General Assembly where membership voting occurs during the next Cumulus conference in Rome, Italy in June 2021 (the exact dates are still to be confirmed). They should plan to attend the conference and present at The New Members Fair. Learn more about the conference at <https://cumulusroma2020.org>.