



***FOR A FEDERATION THAT IS  
ROOTED, UNITED, AND GLOBAL***

***BECOMING A MEMBER***

**Information / Contact**

International Federation of Catholic Universities  
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<https://www.wcu.academy>

## About us

IFCU is a federation founded on the principles of Christian humanism, serving its members who work in very different conditions and face enormous challenges.

Our task is to accompany our members in fostering university cooperation, promoting the social responsibility of universities and enhancing the value of the academic experience, at a time when universities are facing new challenges and transforming their mission, educational models, community engagement strategies and funding structures.

Our goal is to support global collaboration, linking the voices of our members to a global commitment to more inclusive higher education that addresses the challenges identified by the Sustainable Development Goals.

The global web of environmental, economic, political, cultural and social challenges imposes a new role on our members.

Technological changes are transforming the nature of work, modes of sociality and interactivity, political and communication strategies, interactivity, political engagement strategies and the very idea of what it means to be human.

In this economy, the uses of the university (what is it for?), the nature of its stakeholders (who does it serve?), the role of the university in society and how it is perceived (how does the university produce knowledge?) and, finally, its relevance (how does the university create value?) impose a broader and deeper responsibility on federations such as IFCU.

As a global federation, IFCU also has the task of building bridges between different regions of the world and social realities, fostering collaboration between disciplines and modes of knowledge production, and promoting spaces for dialogue between its members (institutions, researchers, students) and between them and other social actors.



IFCU will continue to join forces so that Catholic higher education may be a prophetic sign, a space for dialogue and reconciliation, and an instrument for a more just and fraternal humanity.

*Rev. Francisco Ramirez Yañez, IFCU President*

*International Congress "Educational Constellations - a Pact with the Future"*

*30 October, 2025*

## **EXCERPTS FROM THE STATUTES RELATING TO**

### **THE APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AS A MEMBER OF IFCU**

Articles 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the IFCU Statutes establish the criteria for admission as members as follows:

**Article 6** - The Federation's affiliates consist of members, associates and collaborating institutions.

Catholic universities and Catholic institutions of higher education may be divided into two categories: members and associates.

#### **Article 7 - GENERAL CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Any university or institution of higher education applying for membership must meet the following criteria:

1. carry out high-quality academic and scientific work and have sufficient material and logistical resources to do so;
2. be inspired by Christianity, not only as individuals but also as a community;
3. reflect on the achievements of human and scientific knowledge in the light of the Christian faith;
4. remain faithful to the message of Christ as transmitted by the Church;
5. maintain an institutional commitment to Christian thought and education;
6. be constituted in accordance with current civil and ecclesiastical laws;
7. officially award diplomas;
8. be recommended by two universities or affiliated institutions, at least one of which is based in another country: the first recommendation, whenever possible, comes from the applicant's country and the second from an institution in another country;
9. have at least three faculties or equivalent sections at university level;
10. have been in existence for five years as a university or higher education institution.

#### **Article 8 - ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS**

Any university or higher education institution applying for associate status must meet the general criteria set out in Article 7, 1-8 inclusive; in addition, it must meet one or two of the following criteria:

1. have fewer than three faculties or equivalent sections at university level;
2. have been operating as a university or higher education institution for less than five years.

#### **Article 9 - COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS**

If the associated institution does not meet the criteria for membership, it shall collaborate with the FIUC on the basis of a shared interest in higher education issues and in accordance with the founding values of the Federation. They are invited to participate, without voting rights, in the General Assemblies and in all the activities of the Federation.

Articles 10 and 11 regulate the relations between the Federation and its members as follows:

#### **Article 10 - RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES**

1. All member and associate universities and higher education institutions have the right to participate in the activities and services of the Federation, in consultations and deliberations, and to request mutual assistance;
2. Members and associates undertake to pursue the mission and objectives of the Federation, to respect the statutes and to pay the membership fees set by the General Assembly;
3. Members and associates are responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Administration on the place, date and theme of the next Annual General Assembly.

#### **Article 11 - SUSPENSION AND EXCLUSION FROM MEMBERSHIP**

1. The rights of members and associates shall be suspended by decision of the Board of Administration if the admission criteria are no longer met and/or if membership fees have not been paid for two consecutive years without justified reason.
2. In the event of suspension, the Board of Administration shall decide, in the event of a request for readmission, whether a new application must be submitted.
3. Members and associates may resign from the Federation by giving three months' notice. Such resignation shall take effect upon acceptance by the Board of Administration. Fees shall be paid pro rata temporis until the resignation is accepted by the Board of Administration.

## **Five main services dedicated to members coordinate the Federation's activities**

### **1. A Training Department**

The Training Department was created in response to changes in higher education and with the desire to better prepare our Catholic universities. These training sessions are structured around topics such as 'Management and Leadership,' 'Internationalisation,' 'Communication,' 'University Pastoral Care,' and 'Improving Research Policies.'

The training offer is set to evolve to take into account the reality of a constantly changing university world and to propose programmes that enable university staff and the Catholic world to face the major challenges of today and tomorrow. For the period 2017-2024, more than 250 people have been trained in face-to-face and distance learning modes, in English, Spanish and French.

### **2. IFCU-CIREAD, a tool for promoting scientific cooperation**

The globalisation of international problems requires the research community to work at an international level from now on, in order to address problems both in their global dimension and taking into account their local repercussions. FIUC member universities offer the advantage of being present on all continents, of being able to approach research from a multidisciplinary perspective that integrates cultural expectations, and of being able to work within the framework of International Research Groups, within the International Centre for Research and Decision Support (CIREAD). The latter, founded in 1975, aims to promote inter-university and multidisciplinary research within the framework of international cooperation and offers a space for meeting, debate, intellectual production and knowledge exchange...

### **3. The Higher Education Prospective Unit**

The global higher education market is currently facing profound changes, notably those related to the fourth industrial revolution, organised around the revolution in new information and communication technologies (NICT) and, now, artificial intelligence. In the short term, the organisation of our campuses will be profoundly changed; while the world of employment will be transformed with the emergence of new jobs and the disappearance and mutation of existing ones, our universities must also prepare to launch new training programmes. In order to assist the rectors and management teams of its member universities, IFCU has created a Higher Education Prospective Unit. Its activities are as follows: publication of an annual report on the 'Future of Employment', publication of an annual report on Catholic higher education, publication of notes on emerging trends in higher education, and facilitation of debates and seminars on the challenges facing our institutions.

### **4. Global and worldwide presence and networks: exchange of experiences**

IFCU's presence in international institutions dates back to 1965. This international Catholic voice in the field of knowledge is heard in Paris, at UNESCO, with observer status obtained in 1967; in New York, at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); in Geneva, at the United Nations Human Rights Council; and in Strasbourg, at the Council of Europe. The Federation is also present in the OECD's Higher Education Stakeholders' Forum and the OSCE's Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions. In all these forums, the voice of Catholic academics, through the Federation's network of experts, is heard.

### **5. A collaborative platform: the global portal for Catholic universities - [wcu.academy](https://wcu.academy)**

Throughout 2020, the FIUC has launched a unique portal for all Catholic universities, with practical functions reserved for Federation members.

This cooperation tool aims to provide as comprehensive a view as possible of Catholic higher education and to encourage collaboration among member universities through a collaborative platform, calls for collaboration, calls for projects, etc.

In 2025, Platform 2.0 was launched with new cooperation tools that will enable better interaction among FIUC members.

**ANNUAL FEES FOR IFCU AFFILIATES  
BASED ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED**

| <b>Institutions</b>                   | <b>Low-income countries</b> | <b>Middle-income countries</b> | <b>High-income countries</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Cat. A<br/>-1000 students</b>      | 630 €                       | 674€                           | 693€                         |
| <b>Cat.B<br/>1000-5000 students</b>   | 1260€                       | 1348€                          | 1386€                        |
| <b>Cat.C<br/>5000-10 000 students</b> | 2100€                       | 2247€                          | 2310€                        |
| <b>Cat.D<br/>10 000 students +</b>    | 2940€                       | 3146€                          | 3234€                        |



# MEMBERSHIP 1/2

— ALL INFORMATION MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY TO  
THE IFCU GENERAL SECRETARIAT -sgfiuc@bureau.fiuc.org

## REGISTRATION FORM

RECTOR / PRESIDENT

Date:

|                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| D                    | D                    | M                    | M                    | Y                    | Y                    | Y                    | Y                    |

Type of Membership ☐ Member ☐ Associate ☐ Partner

[A minimum of five years' standing as a university and three schools/faculties or equivalent divisions is required for membership, Article 7 of the Statutes].

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Institution :

Year of Foundation :

Full Address :

City/Country :  Postal Code

Contacto E-Mail :

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

from an IFCU-affiliated organisation in the same country :

from an IFCU-affiliated organisation in another country :

Signature

# MEMBERSHIP 2/2

— ALL INFORMATION MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY TO  
THE IFCU GENERAL SECRETARIAT - [sgfiuc@bureau.fiuc.org](mailto:sgfiuc@bureau.fiuc.org)

## DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

1. A letter from the president/rector requesting membership and declaring their commitment to Christian values [see Article 7].
2. A copy of the statutes or regulations of the university/faculty.
3. The current academic catalogue with the following information:
  - A. *Enrolment figures for the last three years (no minimum enrolment is required for membership, but fees are based on enrolment).*
  - B. *A list of faculty members and their qualifications (may be included in the catalogue);*
  - C. *Description of the library and statistics on library holdings; Financial statements for the previous year.*

## PROCEDURE FOR REVIEWING APPLICATIONS

1. Examination of the entire file in Paris by the Secretary General.
2. Presentation of the file and advice from the members of the FIUC Executive Committee on the application.
3. Consultation with members of the IFCU Board of Directors from the same continent as the applicant university.
4. Final decision communicated by the Secretary General [within two months of receipt of the file].