

Membership Criteria for the International Education Funders Group (IEFG)

IEFG members support efforts to improve education in low- and/or middle-income countries from the preschool to secondary levels. In recognition of the lifelong learning continuum of SDG4, the IEFG now welcomes new members who focus on tertiary education as long as this is not your sole focus in education. IEFG members fund in one or more countries, have an explicitly stated focus in education, and must be one of the types of grantmaking entities listed below:*

- Private independent foundations
- Operating foundations whose grantmaking supports programs other than those operated by the foundation itself or associated chapters or entities
- Public and community foundations whose primary activity is grantmaking and dedicate over 50% of their budget to making grants to multiple organizations
- Faith-based grantmaking programs whose grantmaking is open to multiple organizations and not restricted to a specific religious group
- Corporate foundations and giving programs, provided they are not connected to the business mandate (beyond location). (CSR programs are accepted in exceptional cases, but there are other education networks that may be more helpful to you.)
- Charitable trusts
- Institutional and private philanthropic advisors who are actively engaged in grantmaking
- Family foundations

Grantmaking institutions must meet the following criteria:

- Grants are made for charitable purposes.
- Grants total at least US \$50,000 per year to improve education in low- and/or middle-income countries. Grants made are to carry out activities or support organizations located in those countries. For grantmaking institutions *located in* low and/or middle income countries, direct grants must total at least \$25,000 per year.
- Grants are open to multiple individuals or organizations.
- Grantmaking is the main component of the organization's mission and accounts for at least 55% of the total annual budget.
- The majority of funding comes from non-government sources.

Membership Process

1. Introductory phone call with IEFG coordinator (usually 45 min - 1 hour). As well as answering any questions you have about the IEFG, the coordinator will ask you a series of questions about your organization, and will create a draft Potential Member Profile based on your responses.
2. The coordinator will email you the Potential Member Profile, and ask you to edit it as is necessary. Once you are satisfied, please email it back to the coordinator who will send it on to the IEFG Steering Committee (10 of your peers) to review and decide on membership.
3. The Steering Committee usually meets the 3rd week of every month. Following their decision, the coordinator will be in touch.
4. Members decide how little or much they would like to participate. If you are invited into the

* Organizations whose principal purpose is marketing are not eligible for membership.

IEFG membership, please feel free to initiate ideas, to participate in our events, to propose webinars/meetings, to network, etc. But you are also welcome to remain quiet and use the IEFG as is best for you and your organization. If you want to connect more, but are struggling, please do reach out to the coordinator. We exist to serve the needs of our members, and to improve grantmaking to basic education.

5. After joining the IEFG the Coordinator is able to assist you should you be in need of confidential peer support. She can connect you to appropriate peers and can set up a confidential sharing space for members to discuss a sensitive issue.