

Membership Criteria for the International Education Funders Group (IEFG)

IEFG members support efforts to improve education in low- and/or middle-income countries. Our interests cover early childhood through to secondary education, as well as non-formal education, youth and skills, and adult education. In recognition of the lifelong learning continuum of SDG4, we also welcome new members who focus on tertiary education as long as this is not their sole focus in education. Much of our work aims to support the education targets set out in the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and [Education 2030](#).

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.

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

Membership Process

1. Interested parties download and complete the membership application form and send it to info@iefg.org. *You can download the form by clicking the button below.*
2. Introductory phone call with IIEFG Executive Director (usually 45 min – 1 hour). As well as answering any questions you have about the IIEFG, the Executive Director will ask you a series of questions about your organization based on the information you have provided on the application form.
3. The Executive Director will send your membership application on to the IIEFG Steering Committee's Members Subcommittee to review and decide on membership.
4. The Members Subcommittee usually meets the 3rd week of every month. The Executive Director will be in touch with any questions the Subcommittee might have as well as their decision on your membership application.
5. Members decide how little or much they would like to participate. If you are invited into the IIEFG 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 IIEFG as is best for you and your organization. If you want to connect more, but are struggling, please do reach out to the Executive Director. We exist to serve the needs of our members, and to improve grantmaking to basic education.
6. After joining the IIEFG the Executive Director 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.