WELCOME
TO THE
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OF HISTORY ASSOCIATION
ISHA is an international non-governmental organization of students of history. Our goals are to facilitate communication and provide a platform of exchange for students of history and related sciences on an international level. Does this sound like something you want to be part of? Great! This guide will show you how easy it is to become a part of the International Students of History Association, inform you about the members’ duties and the structure of ISHA, and give some tips to start your life in ISHA and maybe a new ISHA section.
WELCOME

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- How to become a member?
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- Get active! Become visible!
- GA and ISHA in practice
Anybody can become a member of ISHA if she/he is a university student in the field of history. It does not matter if you are a BA, MA or PhD student, as long as you are a student. It is also important to underline that “history” is a very wide discipline. Even if you are not a “history student,” you can have a historical approach for your researches. Therefore, you are encouraged to join ISHA if you are researching literature, art, geography, political studies, and so on, and your research deals with the historical past as well.
You can become a member in various ways. However, here are some important and necessary conditions. The first is to accept the Statutes and Standing Orders of ISHA. We encourage you to read them carefully before you join, as with your joining, you automatically accept them. You can find them on our website.

Are you already a member of another student organization at your uni? Don’t worry! ISHA membership is perfectly compatible with others; there is no need to abandon your other organizations. Even more, you are encouraged to involve your friends and colleagues from these as well.

Another important condition is to pay the 10€ membership fee before the first event of the year, or the first event that you want to attend. However, if you are totally new to ISHA, you can attend your first event without the payment of this fee. This way you can get familiar with the organization and decide later if you want to join for a longer term and become an ACTIVE MEMBER.
What happens if you participate in an event, then your life becomes busy?

In that case, don’t worry. Even if you do not pay your next year membership fee, and do not participate in events, you still remain member of ISHA. It is called **PASSIVE MEMBERSHIP**, meaning that you are active locally, but don’t attend international meetings. In that case, you are still member of your local ISHA **SECTION**.
What is a section? A section is a group of students, who are members of ISHA, and do their studies in the same city. It is important to underline that ISHA Sections are organized on a **CITY LEVEL**. Even if there are 2-3 universities in your city, and many of them are members of ISHA, there can be only one ISHA section. For example: ISHA Budapest covers all the ISHA members of Budapest, in spite that they are attending three different universities.

You can organize your section as you want. It can be either an unofficial group of students calling themselves „ISHA Winterfell”, or you can become a legally recognized organization. However, the local section’s organization and events must be compliant with the ISHA Standing Orders and Statutes.
You are already a member of ISHA, so why do you need sections, or any local entities? Well, it has a great practical advantage:

In a case of an event, it can help the organizers to make the event as diverse as possible. Each section has usually one or two fixed spots for an event. This allows the event to not be dominated by a single city. Instead, the organizers can invite two or more people from all the sections where applications came from. One of the main goals of ISHA is to connect as many different students from as many parts as possible.
Event organization is another important reason. ISHA has four primary international events, and many regional and local events. These can only be organized by local entities. Organizational work is easier if you have a coordinated and organized team instead of a group of individuals.
Voting at General Assembly (GA) is the third reason. ISHA is a group of individuals, which need to be represented during a GA. However, it is impossible in the case of an organization with so many people. Therefore, local sections choose a representative for the GA from the accepted participants, who are active members. There should be a representative after every 50 local member.

The fourth is about communication: If your local section has an e-mail address and a mailing list, you can get all the ISHA news much easier. It makes keeping in touch with a section very easy, so we encourage you when you establish a section to create an e-mail address that you check regularly, and publish it as an official contact (on your and ISHA’s website). As a local entity, you are encouraged to involve more people, and spread the word of ISHA in your and other institutions. It is much easier if you are an organized group.
ISHA Sections are local organizations and ISHA allows only one section per city. National representative bodies of history students, as well as other national and international organizations and entities, which do not qualify for membership, but share in the aims, goals and interests of ISHA, may become “Associated Partners” upon approval by the General Assembly.

Associated Partners will be kept up-to-date with all activities of ISHA and will be invited for activities by the IB whenever appropriate.

Associated Partners are required to provide the IB with up-to-date contact information and to inform the IB of changes in their legal status. Associated Partners are welcome to contact the IB with any other matter.
On local level, it is important to **be active**. As part of ISHA you have the wonderful opportunity and task to preserve, improve and spread an international association for students interested in history. You will meet great people, travel to beautiful places, have fun and learn a lot about history itself. Also you will learn about how history is studied and taught in other parts of the world, the awesome diversity of other cultures and people, often not far from your home country.

There are many possibilities to get active and spread the idea of ISHA at your university and your city. You can also cooperate with other student organizations, or even higher academic workshops. A few ideas:

- Visits to museums or other historically interesting places
- Colloquiums (students present and discuss their research)
- Movie nights
- Lectures
- Training Workshops
It is highly recommended to have your own website and Facebook page. The later one is relatively easy to do, as anybody can start a page on Facebook. You can visit other sections’ Facebook pages to get some inspiration. It is fancy if you have a logo. Constant updates with pictures about your activities can provide visibility.

Creating a website is optional, but it is recommended if you plan to have any kind of event. Communication with members, useful material and basic contact information are much easier accessible if you have them in a fixed place and not somewhere in a Facebook newsfeed.

You want to be visible not just for the other students at your hometown, but also for the rest of ISHA. We have a newsletter, where we publish anything about your events, if you send us the material to the general ISHA email address.
The **General Assembly** is the main forum and decision-making body of ISHA. It can be held in every international event, so there can be four in a year, but at least one per year is necessary.

The General Assembly elects the officials, decides about the next event venues, deals with international partnership issues, and so on. You can find more about the tasks of the GA in our Standing Orders.

At the GA, each representative has one vote for every 50 students she/he represents. This makes sure that there is consensus between sections, so bigger sections cannot dominate the whole decision making of the Organization. At the GA, voting can be open or secret. Officials are always elected with secret voting.

**Officials** are the **International Board**, the **Council**, and others like the editor of ISHA’s own paper, called Carnival. More information about the Officials and their tasks can be found on our website.
Welcome to ISHA!

If you ever have any questions, complaints, comments or feelings, do not hesitate to check out our website: isha-international.org/ or contact the International Board and Council via: isha.inter@gmail.com