

INTER Statutes

Chapter 1: The Association

Article 1: General Provisions

1. The association's name is INTER, and in the remainder of these statutes, INTER is referred to as “the association.”
2. The association is located in Amsterdam, New Achtergracht 166 1018WV Amsterdam.
3. The association was founded on 14th March 2017. The association is established for an indefinite period. will exist for an unset time period.
4. The association is a political student party at the University of Amsterdam.
5. The association’s official language of conduct and publication is English;
 - a. The Dutch language may be used when circumstances require it.
6. The association does not aim to make a profit.

Article 2: Association Year

1. The association year spans from 1st September until 31st August;
2. The financial year of the association spans from September 1st until August 31st.

Article 3: Termination

1. The association shall be terminated when all members in a General Assembly (GA) unanimously decide that it is no longer serving its statutory goals.
2. On termination as per Article 3.1, any surplus funds may be returned to the original source or divided amongst members. The course of action shall be determined by unanimity of Board Members.

Chapter 2: Goals

Article 4: Goals

The association’s objective is to improve students’ well-being at the University of Amsterdam, by the:

1. Representation of the general interest of the student body;
2. Encouragement of student involvement in university politics;
3. Establishment of a platform for all students to voice their opinions concerning the University of Amsterdam;
4. Commitment to the values of our association
 - a. Promotion of an international outlook;
 - b. Commitment to sustainability and environmentalism;
 - c. Enhancement of transparency in decision-making;
 - d. Commitment to diversity;
 - e. Supporting mental health and student well-being;
 - f. Improving the Quality of Education;
5. Election of the association’s representatives in the Faculty Student Council(s) and the Central Student Council.

Chapter 3: Members

Article 5: Types of Members

1. All members of the association shall be students of the University of Amsterdam.
2. The association comprises of the following types of members:
 - a. Board Members;
 - i. Board Members must be at least three persons fulfilling the role of the chair, secretary and treasurer.
 - ii. More Board positions can be added through a simple majority.
 - b. Transparency & Democracy Officers;
 - c. Representatives;
 - d. Advisors;
 - e. General Members;
 - f. Media & Marketing Assistant(s);
 - g. Confidant.
3. Categories of membership are not mutually exclusive.
4. The association also recognises:
 - a. Sponsors.
5. All member types are required to be a General Member of the association, except for Sponsors.
6. The procedure for accepting members as well as elections into specific roles are further specified in the bylaws of the association.

Article 6: Suspension of Membership

1. The following is a non-exhaustive list of reasons for which membership may be suspended:
 - a. Violent or considerably aggressive conduct directed towards another member with the purpose of intimidation or harm;
 - b. Purposeful actions deemed harmful to the association or its reputation.
2. Suspension occurs by a final decision of the Board, which may be made on the advice of Advisors, or by the Confidant;
 - a. The Board shall decide on suspension within two weeks of the incident in question.
 - b. If the Board reaches a deadlock in its decision, a vote amongst all members, excluding the member in question, of the association shall take place within two weeks of this deadlock;
 - i. A majority must be in favour of suspension for it to occur.
 - c. The member in question shall not be able to advise or vote on the matter.
3. The member in question must be given notice in (electronic) writing, outlining the reason for suspension, at least a week before the vote for suspension takes place, and they must be given the opportunity to defend themselves immediately before the vote occurs.
4. Suspension of membership shall have immediate effect.
5. A suspended member may not attend meetings or General Assemblies, claim to represent the association or engage in the activities of the association.
6. The Board decides over the time period of suspension.
7. The time period of suspension shall be limited to a maximum of eight weeks at a time, after which membership shall be automatically reinstated.

Article 7: Termination of Membership

1. The following is a non-exhaustive list of reasons for which membership may be terminated:
 - a. The natural person dies;
 - b. The member decides to cease membership or withdraw their core personal information, and communicates this to the Board in (electronic) writing;
 - c. The member joins another political party at the University of Amsterdam;
 - d. The member becomes a member of another organisation which is deemed to be in conflict with the values of the association;
 - e. The member is removed by the unanimous decision of the Board;
 - i. If removal concerns a Board Member, they shall not be able to advise or vote on the matter.
 - f. The member does not pay their yearly membership fee.
 - g. Violent or considerably aggressive conduct directed towards another member with the purpose of intimidation or harm;
 - h. Purposeful actions deemed harmful to the association or its reputation.
2. Termination of membership shall have immediate effect.
3. The Board decides upon the termination of membership by a two-thirds majority.
4. The Board must notify the member in question of their termination in (electronic) writing as soon as possible, stating the reason for termination of membership.
5. The member in question has the right to appeal the decision of the Board in a GA.
 - a. The final decision on termination:
 - i. Must be made within two weeks of the Board decision;
 - ii. Must be a two-thirds-majority;
 - iii. Shall be binding;
 - iv. Shall have immediate effect;
 - v. Shall not be subject to further appeal.

Chapter 4: General Assembly

Article 8: General Assembly

1. There shall be a minimum of one General Assembly (GA) per association year.
2. The Chair shall lead the GA(s).
3. A simple majority of Board Members may call a GA with a minimum of one week's notice;
4. All members are invited to attend the GA; at least a quarter of the members must be present or represented by proxy at the GA to give binding effect to the decisions made.
 - a. Representation by proxy requires the signature of the member to be represented.
5. The GA votes on;
 - a. Termination association membership in case of an appeal, Article 7.5., it shall make this decision by a two-thirds majority;
 - b. Approving statutory amendments, as per Article 11, they shall make this decision by an absolute majority of present members;
 - c. Electing new Board members;
 - d. Nominating Council Candidates.

- e. Issues requested by a General Member present at the GA.
- 6. Anyone has the right to abstain from voting.

Article 9: Nomination of Council Candidates

1. In order to be eligible to run for a Council position as a Representative of the association, the potential candidate must:
 - a. Be a member of the association;
 - b. Be a student at the University of Amsterdam during their potential term as a Representative;
2. Eligible members who wish to run for a Council position must notify the Board in (electronic) writing during an annually publicly announced application period.
3. Based on the applications the Board proposes a ranked list to be voted on in a GA.
 - a. Eligible members who wish to run as candidates in the elections have the opportunity to pitch their candidacy in a GA, even when their candidacy deviates from the Board's proposed list.
4. After all eligible members who wish to run have pitched, a vote shall take place to determine the order of the association's candidate list for each student council;
 - a. The votes shall be cast anonymously.
 - b. The vote may follow a ranked voting system.
 - c. All members may vote on the order of the candidate list;
 - i. If a member is running for a Council position, they are not eligible to vote on the candidate list.
 - d. In the case of a tie between two or more candidates, the Board Members shall decide the order of the relevant candidates by consensus.

Article 10: Appointment of the New Board

1. Individual elections take place through a secret ballot in the final General Assembly (GA) of the association year;
 - a. The candidate who reaches a simple majority in the first round of voting is elected to the Board in their respective position;
 - b. In the case of a tie, there is a second round of voting (run-off ballot) between the candidates with the most votes from the first round;
 - c. Impeachment of an individual Board Member may occur by the initiative of any Member and by a vote of no confidence through an absolute majority in a GA of those present.
2. Board Members assume their roles during the transition period for a term of one association year;
 - a. The term otherwise ends in the case of impeachment;
 - b. The term of Board Members who are elected during the already-convened association year shall last until the end of that association year.
3. Board Members must, in all cases:
 - a. Be a member of the association;
 - b. Be a student at the University of Amsterdam during their potential term as a Board Member.
4. Board Members may run for an unlimited number of terms

5. An extraordinary GA shall be held within the association year to fill vacant Board positions if necessary.

Chapter 5: Amendment of Statutory Rules

Article 11: General Provisions

1. Statutory amendments shall be written by the Board.
2. The proposed amendment(s) shall be voted on by members during a General Assembly.
3. If the amendment as proposed is approved, the Board shall be responsible for executing the amendment.
4. If the amendment as proposed is rejected, the Board may rephrase it immediately and another vote may take place immediately; a second rejection shall preclude a similar amendment from being proposed again within one month.

Article 12: Bylaws

1. The General Assembly can adopt bylaws by a simple majority.
2. The bylaws may not conflict with the law, including where no mandatory law applies, nor with the statutes.

Chapter 6: Finances

Article 13: General Provisions

1. The Treasurer shall:
 - a. Be responsible for the association's finances and keeping clear and extensive records of the association's finances and transactions;
 - i. Any member may request a copy of such records from the Treasurer at any time during the association year.
2. The Treasurer must present a financial overview of the association at a General Assembly at the beginning and at the end of the association year.
3. For any expenditures, which have not been specified by the GA before, the Treasurer shall consult the rest of the Board, who must approve it by a simple majority.
4. It is recognised that the association may receive financial contributions
 - a. These financial contributions may come from its members,
 - i. No member shall be required to make contributions, excluding the mandatory membership fee, nor shall any member be told a specific amount they should contribute,
 - ii. There shall be no compulsion with regard to such contributions;
 - b. The association may accept financial contributions from its council members,
 - i. Contribution to the association by the councilmembers is not required,
 - ii. The association's recommendation is not binding, and representatives may contribute any desired amount,
 - iii. The individual financial contributions by the council members must be kept anonymous and only be processed and accessed by the treasurer of the association.

- c. The association may accept non-monetary and monetary donations from individuals and outside organisations, including private businesses,
 - i. These donations may only be accepted as a unanimous decision by the Board.
 - 1. It must be announced to all members 36 hours prior to the Board's decision on the sponsor, before which members must have the possibility to consult the Board. An anonymous online vote about the decision has to be arranged, in which a simple majority has to be reached.
 - ii. Donations from private businesses and outside organisations may only be approved if their values and actions are in accordance with the goals of the association as stated in Article 4,
- 5. All members of the Association are required to pay a yearly membership fee determined in the bylaws of the association of at least €5 throughout the period of enrolment as a student at the University of Amsterdam.
- 6. If a member joins within the association year they shall pay their membership fee for that association year.
 - a. If a member does not pay this membership fee their membership shall be terminated in accordance with Article 7.1.f
 - i. Members may request the Board for an extended time period to pay their membership fee which may be granted if the Board deems this request to be reasonable.
 - b. The precise membership fee has to be specified in the bylaws of the association.

Chapter 7: Privacy and Residual Rules

Article 14: Privacy for Members

- 1. INTER is obliged to protect the data of its members to the best of its abilities.
- 2. All data regulations are defined in the bylaws and can be inspected on the website at all times.

Article 15: General Provisions

- 1. When circumstances arise that are not provided for by these statutes, the Board shall decide how to handle the situation.
- 2. The language of these statutes shall primarily be interpreted in a literal sense;
 - a. If the language is ambiguous, the provision shall be interpreted in light of the goals of the association, particularly the goals of representing the general interest of the student body and enhancing transparency in decision-making at the University of Amsterdam.