

**To: EASA members**

**From: the Executive**  
W: <http://www.easaonline.org>

**Subject: Membership categories**

23/07/2015

Dear EASA members

At its last meeting, the EASA Executive Committee discussed possible changes to the Association's membership categories. We are writing to seek your opinion on our proposal to make the following changes:

- Do away with the distinction between the categories of Ordinary Member and Associate Member (the latter is currently assigned to 10% of the membership located outside Europe) by removing from the governing document of the Association (known as the 'Constitution') the italicized language in the following:
  - 'Eligibility for ordinary membership is based on one of the following criteria:
    - 9.3.2.1 Possession of a Master degree (or equivalent) in social anthropology (or equivalent) *from a European university* or
    - 9.3.1.2 Possession of a teaching or research post in social anthropology (or equivalent) *which is at a European university or European institution of equivalent standing*
- Extend voting rights to Student Members (25% of the current membership); currently, the Student Member category includes any member who is currently enrolled PhD or Master's programme in Social Anthropology or in Social Sciences with a focus on Social Anthropology
- Do away with the requirement that an application for membership be supported by a current member of the association.

The implication of the first change will be that all members other than Student Members would be Full Members and hence be voting members of the Association. However, cost and other concerns will make those not principally resident in Europe or affiliated with an European institution ineligible to stand for election to the Executive Committee; the Constitution will be amended accordingly.

The Executive Committee believes that the first two proposed changes will ensure greater democratic participation in the affairs of the Association and will better reflect its goals and aims. There is little motivation for keeping the Associate Member category separate from the Ordinary Member category, and none of our sister associations (e.g., European Sociological Association, European Association of Geographers, European Political Science Association) makes comparable distinctions. Extending Student Members the right to vote will give the next generation of anthropologists in Europe a greater sense of ownership in the Association.

The third proposed change removes a requirement that slows the application process; incurs administrative costs to the association; takes the time of colleagues to write letters of support; and deters prospective members with no established networks from joining.

The first two proposed changes require altering the Constitution and must therefore be put to an online vote, which will take place in October 2015. In the meantime we welcome comments/discussion from the membership, which should be emailed to [easa@nomadit.co.uk](mailto:easa@nomadit.co.uk) by 15th September 2015.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rohan Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rohan Jackson

EASA administrator, on behalf of the Exec