

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF SCOTTISH LITERATURES (IASSL)

Approved by the Advisory Board and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator for charitable Registration

Constitution

1. Name: The title of the **Association shall be the International Association for the Study of Scottish Literatures (IASSL)**, a charity on the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) Register which is also regarded as a charity in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts in its operation and in the clauses which follow.

2. Objects: Subject always to Clause 16, the purposes of the Association shall be to encourage study and research in the literatures of Scotland and Scottish Studies more broadly. The Association shall concern itself with the holding of the Association's Congress at regular intervals (normally every two or three years); with the organization of occasional conferences and webinars; with publication of papers relating particularly to research in the literatures of Scotland; with travel and exchange facilities for scholars who wish to study and teach these literatures; and with the collection of information about the nature and location of source materials.

3. Affiliation:

- a) The Association shall seek affiliation with organisations with similar aims and shall invite such organisations to seek affiliation with the Association.
- b) The basis of any affiliation shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

4. Application for Membership: Membership of the Association shall be open to all interested in the aims of the Association.

5. Membership: Membership of the Association shall be divided into the following categories:

- a) Ordinary, i.e. for individuals.
- b) Corporate, i.e., for institutions, libraries, publishing houses, societies.
- c) Such other categories (e.g., membership for students and the unsalaried, membership of the Association for members of affiliated organisations) as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine.

6. Subscriptions:

- a) The annual subscription shall be such as may be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee in respect of each category of member.
- b) The Executive Committee shall have power to allow reduced subscriptions following an Ordinary Member's retirement from professional duties, for members who are unemployed, for undergraduate students and for graduates engaged in full time work for a higher degree. Other reductions shall have to be approved by the Annual General Meeting.
- c) Subscriptions shall be due on 1 August each year and the Executive Committee may, without further notice and after due warning, terminate the membership of any member who is more than three months in arrears with her/his subscription.

7. Officers, and Executive Committee:

- a) The Officers of the Association shall be the **Convenor**, the **Secretary**, the **Membership Secretary** and the **Treasurer**. The Treasurer should be Scottish/UK based to reflect the Trust's charitable status in accordance with OSCR and shall be *ex officio* a Trustee of IASSL. They shall be elected at the **Association's General Election** by electronic vote/email ballot in each third year (starting from the year of the Association's foundation, 2014), between June and July, and shall hold office for a period

of three years. At the same Election, eight **Executive Committee members** shall be elected, also for a period of three years.

The Executive Committee should reflect the diversity of the Association's membership and academic pursuits. The Convenor and Secretary will invite the Association's members to submit nominations as well as seek nominations of committee members from as many regions of the world as possible, with no more than 3 members coming from the same country. Among the elected members, they will appoint one member based at a Scottish/UK university and at one for each of the continents as the candidates filed to run represent. All remaining positions will be filled on the basis of number of votes only.

Three ex officio members will also be appointed: **the organizer of the forthcoming World Congress** (identified at the Annual General Meeting preceding the Election), and **the immediately preceding term's Convenor and Secretary**, who will continue ex officio to preserve continuity. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than one additional member.

b) In its first meeting the Executive committee will assign specific roles for its members, including but not limited to a **Newsletter Editor**, a **web/Social media Officer** and a **Postgraduate Officer**.

c) The executive business of the Association shall be dispatched by the Executive Committee consisting of the Convenor, the Secretary, the Membership Secretary, the Treasurer, the 8 elected members and the 3 ex-officio members, who shall be elected for a period of 3 years as mentioned in Clause 7(a). All Executive Committee members except the Convenor may stand for re-election for one further period of office for the office they hold.

d) The Executive Committee may fill any casual vacancies among the Officers and the Committee, but any Officer or member of the Executive Committee so appointed shall hold office only until the next following General Election and shall then be eligible for re-election.

8. Advisors/Advisory Boards

a) The Committee will appoint as many external advisors as they deem necessary. **An external advisor for Scottish Gaelic studies** will be appointed if none of the Officers or elected members has a specific competence in this field of studies.

b) For all matters concerning the support of and interaction with PhD students' activities and projects the Executive committee shall seek the help and advice of the **PhD students Advisory Board**. This will consist of **up to three representatives of IASSL doctoral student members** and shall be elected each year in February with the possibility of one year renewal by PhD students who are IASSL members by electronic vote/email ballot.

9. Sub-Committees: The Executive Committee may, from time to time, appoint such Sub-Committees as they may deem expedient and depute to them such of the Executive Committee's powers and duties as they think appropriate. All Sub-Committees shall report their proceedings to the Executive Committee and shall conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Executive Committee. Sub Committees (which may include the Conference Committee) should not normally exceed a year in duration.

10. Duties of the Officers

a) **Convenor:** The Convenor of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the Committee and at all General Meetings of the Association and in the case of equality of votes (s)he shall have a second casting vote. If (s)he shall have signified her/his inability to be present at the meeting, the members present shall choose one of the Executive Committee members, or, if none is present, one of their number to be Chair of the meeting in her/his place

b) **Secretary:** The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Association. At least one month before any Annual General Meeting, (s)he shall send to every Member, at her/his address as recorded in the Association's books, a notice of the meeting, stating the time and place where it will be held.

c) **Membership Secretary:** The Membership Secretary shall act upon all membership applications, maintain records of membership.

d) **Treasurer:** The Treasurer is ex officio a Trustee and is responsible with the agreement of the Trustees for making submissions to OSCR in that capacity. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep proper and sufficient accounts, and (s)he shall produce to each Annual Meeting accounts for the year ended on the previous 31 December. The accounts should be subject to external scrutiny in line with the relevant requirements of legislation. Copies of the independently examined account shall be distributed at each General Meeting.

11. Annual General Meeting: A General Meeting of the Association shall be held every year in the month of January. It will conduct the following business:

- a) the presentation, and, if accepted, the passing of the accounts for the previous financial year ended 31 December which shall first have been externally examined.
- b) such other business as shall have been communicated to the Secretary.

12. Extraordinary General Meetings: General Meetings may be called at other times, with at least a month's notice given to all members by the Executive Committee.

13. General Elections: Elections of Officers and members of the Executive Committee (as specified in Clause 7) shall be by electronic vote/email ballot, to be organised by the Secretary.

14. Amendments: Subject always to Clause 16 these Clauses may be amended, repealed, altered or added to, by a two-thirds majority vote by electronic vote/email ballot, of which not less than one month's notice containing the proposed amendment has been given.

15. Dissolution: If the Executive Committee decides at any time that it is advisable to dissolve the Association it shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting, and if their decision shall at such an Extraordinary General Meeting be confirmed by a two-thirds majority, the Committee shall have the power to require the Trustees to liquidate any assets held by or in the name of the Association provided that any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall, subject to Clause 16 be applied towards such charitable objects as the Executive Committee may determine. The expression 'charitable purpose' shall mean a charitable purpose under section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 which is also regarded as a charitable purpose in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts.

16. Charitable Intent: Notwithstanding anything hereinafter contained, it is hereby declared that the Association is established for charitable purposes only, and that under no circumstances shall any funds or assets of the Association be applied towards non-charitable purposes.

Last amended: 20 January 2026