

**ISC GA 26-29/01/2025, Muscat, Oman**

**Side event: Membership of peak scientific bodies**

**IUGS contribution**

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# What is the value proposition?

Membership of such bodies is typically restricted to organisations rather than individuals: some examples in the geosciences

<p><b>Australian Geoscience Council</b></p> 	<p>Eight members are the main geoscience societies, including the Geological Soc. of Australia, the Australian Instit. of Geoscientists, and the Australasian Instit. of Mining and Metallurgy.</p>
<p>Australian Academy of Science</p> 	<p>Individuals can be elected, but there are nine national committees for different sciences.</p>
<p><b>International Union of Geological Sciences</b></p> 	<p><b>57</b> financial (voting) and <b>~66</b> non-financial members (national bodies which can include academies, national geological societies, geological surveys, etc.)</p>

# What do they do and who funds them?

## Australian Geoscience Council



- Co-ordinates support for education outreach into schools
- 5-yearly survey of universities – the AGTEP reports
- Advocacy on behalf of the geoscience community
- Support for various government initiatives
- Tries prevent overlap between member organisations
- Bids for major conferences that span the geosciences

- Levy on member organisations
- Surplus from conferences and interest on this
- Annual \$ ~USD 20k

## Australian Academy of Science



- Advocates with government for the sciences in general
- National committees prepare decadal plans
- Link between government and universities
- Some representation on international bodies
- Educational initiatives
- Various awards

- Aust Government
- Fellow subs
- Investments & property
- Annual \$ ~USD 11M

## International Union of Geological Sciences



- Supports research for various internat. constituent groups and joint programs with UNESCO (e.g. IGCP)
- Selects the location for the Internat. Geological Congress
- Represents parts of the geosciences on the ISC

- Fees for adhering members (8 cat.)
- Surplus from IGCs
- UNESCO
- Annual \$ ~USD 1M (incl. quad IGC)



## ***Why to be a member or for them to exist?***

- Co-ordinate and support activities that no other bodies can or should be supporting
- Speak with an authoritative voice
- Engagement with the general community
- Big picture issues
- Fill in gaps
- Use reputation to get a foot in the door (government, industry, universities, ...)

## ***Why to not be a member?***

- Yet another pointless committee or bureaucracy
- Difficulty in answering the questions “*what do you do; what do you achieve?*”
- Cost (even with sliding scales)
- Internal conflict between member organisations
- Opacity or lack of engagement (*what % of scientists around the globe have heard of the International Science Council? Maybe 3%?*)