

The criteria for full membership

According to the documentation on which KNAW based its recognition of NESCoR in 2000, individual faculty membership is contingent upon fulfilment of the following criteria:

A completed Ph.D.

A solid, regular publication track-record; defined as (substantial contributions to) two publications in scientifically respected journals or books (i.e., peer-reviewed) per year on average; one in English (this applies to 0.4 fte membership);

Additional criteria, especially for program directors, include: international reputation, successful graduate student supervision and successful research grant applications

Interpretation of the criteria for full membership

On a general note, we recognize that no set of operationalisations of these criteria can be definite or afford no exceptions. That is why the NESCoR-Board allows exemptions where it considers these justified. Nevertheless, below follows a set of general definitions and guidelines for the interpretation of the mentioned criteria:

The criterion of "completed Ph.D." is operationalised as meaning that the reading committee has approved of the thesis.

Most generally, "scientific publications" are defined as original texts available from institutionalised sources, that carry the diffusion of scientific knowledge as their primary goal, that primarily target either academic audiences, do not purposefully exclude certain groups from access, do not essentially limit authorship to restricted groups, and make diffusion ultimately contingent upon peer review of quality and relevance.

"Solid, regular publication track-record" refers to the faculty member's average number of publications per calendar year.

The standardized time range within which an average number of publications is being evaluated are the preceding three calendar years. For instance, if an evaluation takes place in the year 2003, then the relevant years are 2000, 2001, and 2002.

If a faculty member has had a research appointment at another academic institution than those associated with NESCoR during (part of) the previous three years, then the publications in the preceding three calendar years obtained via that research appointment can apply.

If faculty members completed their Ph.D. less than three calendar years ago, or did not have an academic research appointment for the last three calendar years, they are affiliate members. Evaluation will take place three years after the calendar year during which the research appointment took place.

"Substantial contribution" to a publication is defined as being listed as one of the authors of a publication

If someone is listed as an author of a publication, then we assume that the person's contribution to the work is substantial.

"Scientifically respected journals" are series of periodicals that carry the diffusion of scientific knowledge as their primary goal, and that primarily target academic audiences.

Journals or periodicals whose primary goal is the diffusion of academic knowledge but for target audiences other than academic ones (e.g., client newsletters, newspapers, etc.) are excluded.

Journals listed in the SSCI-list of ISI (Institute for Scientific Information, Philadelphia, among which the Science Index and Humanities Index) are sine qua non considered to abide to the abovementioned criteria.

"Scientifically respected books" should also carry the diffusion of scientific knowledge as their primary goal, and primarily target academic audiences, or academics in the professional world.

"Book" could either mean a monograph or a book chapter.

Books whose primary goal is the diffusion of academic knowledge but for target audiences other than academic ones (e.g., consumers, parents, etc.) are excluded.

Book publication should not be contingent upon a (substantial) financial contribution by the author(s) or the author's faculty.

"Two publications" refers to two publications that fall within the definitions of "scientific respected" given above. Usually, these publications count as one. However, there are some cases where publications could count for less or more than one.

If a series of chapters in one and the same book volume is concerned, then these separate chapters can add up to a maximum of 1.5 publications at max.

Publications could be counted for 0.5:

When someone is the editor of a book or special edition of a journal (without having made other contributions to the publication in the form a chapter or paper).

In case of a renewed publication that carries substantial revisions.

In case of publications issued by research institutes, departments, government, public agencies, and commercial institutions (other than scientific publishers).

In case of a series of book reviews published in an ISI-ranked journal. Publications are not usually counted if the publication was:

A translation of a previously authored publication.

A re-print of a previously authored publication (without substantial revision)

A single book review; An editorial; An interview, or column; A measurement instrument; An erratum; A data-set And the like.

Below follow a number of publication types, the status of which may be potentially ambiguous:

Software: not counted as a publication, unless it is distributed by a publisher of academic software (e.g. ProGamma; SSI) and/or the software is reviewed in a scientific journal.

Textbooks for academic students: These are not counted as publications.

Internet publications: These can be counted as publications, but only to the extent that the website publisher conforms to the guidelines outlined above.

Conference proceedings: not counted as publications, unless the proceedings are ISI-ranked.

Internal working papers/series: not counted as publications.

Research reports for external organizations, including research institutes, departments, government, public agencies, and commercial institutions: not counted as publications.

"English" refers to the language in which the publication text was written, independent of whether or not the publisher resides in an English-speaking country or not.

"0.4 fte" equals 15.2 hours a week.

Faculty members with a 0.4 fte research appointment should show a publication record of two publications per year on average.

Faculty members with a less than 0.4 fte research appointment should show a publication record that is proportional to the above criterion. For instance, a 0.1 fte appointment should lead to a publication record of 0.5 publications per year on average, a 0.2 fte appoint to a record of 1 publication on average per year, and so on.

Faculty members with a more than 0.4 fte research appointment should show a quarter of a publication more per 0.1 fte more. For instance, a 0.5 fte appointment should lead to a publication record of 2.25 publications per year on average, a 0.6 fte appoint to a record of 2.5 publications on average per year, and so on.

Compensations for child care, illness, management tasks, etc. are given in accordance with the amount of fte and the time period that a faculty member is formally compensated by his or her home institution.