

British Cardiovascular Society

Pre-Contract Membership Subscription Terms and Conditions

Effective date: August 2026

This document provides the pre-contract information required under UK consumer law and sets out the terms and conditions that govern your British Cardiovascular Society ("BCS") membership subscription. Please read it carefully before completing your application.

1. Who we are and how to contact us

The British Cardiovascular Society ("BCS", "we", "us") is a professional membership organisation. Our registered office is at 9 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 5HW. BCS is a company limited by guarantee (Company No. 03005604) and a registered charity (Charity No. 1093321).

Email: membership@bcs.com

Telephone: 020 7383 3887

Website: www.britishcardiovascularsociety.org.uk

2. What you are buying

You are applying for annual membership of the British Cardiovascular Society in one of our available membership categories. Membership provides access to professional benefits, services and opportunities associated with your chosen category (see Membership Rules and benefits information on our website).

3. Membership categories and eligibility

Eligibility criteria and participation rights are determined by the BCS Board and set out in the Membership Rules. A summary of categories is provided below:

- **Ordinary Members (including SAS Doctor role):** Clinicians, scientists and professionals with primary cardiovascular focus. Ordinary Members are Companies Act members with full AGM voting and governance rights (subject to role-specific criteria).
- **Emeritus Members:** Fully retired former Ordinary Members. Not Companies Act members; no AGM voting or nomination rights.
- **Affiliate Members:** Members of an Affiliated Society who are not consultant cardiologists, cardiologists in training or SAS doctors. Not Companies Act members; eligible to vote and stand for Society Committee positions only (as specified in the Membership Rules).
- **International Members:** Individuals meeting Ordinary criteria but working and residing outside the UK. Not Companies Act members and not eligible to stand or vote in BCS elections or committees unless stated otherwise.
- **Associate Members (BJCA):** Resident doctors who are members of the British Junior Cardiologists' Association. Not Companies Act members; voting limited to Society election ballots as specified by the Membership Rules.
- **Fellowship (FBCS):** An additional, paid designation (subject to eligibility and panel approval) available to Ordinary, Emeritus and International Members. Fellows may use the post-nominals FBCS while fees are up to date. Fellowship does not change governance rights unless specified in BCS regulations.

4. Applications, admission and account management

Applications are made via the online BCS membership portal. You must keep your contact details (name, email, postal address) up to date in your member record. Admission to membership is at BCS discretion and may be refused where eligibility criteria are not met.

5. Term, renewal and fees (including payment)

Membership begins on the date of admission (membership application approval) and renews automatically each year on the anniversary of joining unless you cancel in accordance with these Terms. Fees are set annually by the Board and may change; we will give at least one month's written notice before an increase takes effect on your next renewal date. Payment details are taken upon application submission; fees are taken upon application approval and then upon renewal each year. Accepted payment methods include Direct Debit (including quarterly Direct Debit for some categories of membership) and credit/debit card. If a payment fails, your membership benefits may be suspended until payment is received.

Membership fees cover a 12-month membership period and are non-refundable after the cooling-off period except where required by law. Should you choose to cancel your membership before the end of this commitment period, you remain contractually liable for the full membership fee covering the entire 12 months.

Cancellation will prevent renewal beyond the initial term but does not release you from the obligation to pay any outstanding fees for the remainder of the agreed membership period. Any unpaid balance may be invoiced and is due in accordance with the organisation's standard payment terms.

We will provide renewal reminders containing the information and within the timescales required by applicable consumer protection legislation.

6. Membership categories and current prices (informational)

Current categories and annual fees include:

- Ordinary Membership – £365 per year
- Ordinary Membership (SAS Doctor) - £220
- Associate (BJCA) Membership – £155 per year
- Affiliate Membership – £65 per year
- International Membership – £125 per year
- Fellowship (FBCS) – additional £145 per year (where eligible)

Eligibility criteria and participation rights vary by category and are set out in the Membership Rules.

7. Cooling-off, cancellations and refunds

Under the Consumer Contracts Regulations, you have a statutory right to cancel within 14 days beginning on the day after membership is activated. To exercise this right, notify us at membership@bcs.com within the 14-day period. If services have begun at your request during the cooling-off period, we may deduct a proportionate amount reflecting the value of services used. After the cooling-off period, membership fees are non-refundable unless we are at fault or as required by law. You may still cancel at any time to stop future renewals.

8. How to cancel or stop renewal

You can cancel your membership or stop automatic renewal at any time by logging into your BCS Member account and cancelling online, or by emailing membership@bcs.com. Clear cancellation instructions are available in your Member account.

9. Category changes (upgrades and changes)

You must tell us promptly if your eligibility changes and we will adjust your category at the next renewal (or earlier, at our discretion). Associate BJCA members: individuals reaching CCT and no longer in training will be automatically upgraded to Ordinary Membership with a transitional reduced rate. They will be informed beforehand and will be offered an opt out option.

10. Refer and colleague scheme

The BCS Refer a Colleague Scheme is open all current active BCS members, for those wishing to refer a colleague into either the New Ordinary Membership or the New SAS Doctor Ordinary Membership. To qualify for the offer, the referring member must email the BCS membership team at membership@bcs.com confirming:

- Your full name and membership email address
- The full name and email address of the colleague you are referring.

The referred colleague must:

- Submit a completed application for BCS membership within 8 weeks of the referral notification being received; and
- Successfully meet the eligibility criteria and be accepted into membership.

Once the referred colleague has been accepted into membership, the referring member will receive a 15% discount off their next annual membership renewal fee.

The discount:

- Applies for one membership year only;
- Cannot be exchanged for cash or any alternative benefit;
- Cannot be applied retrospectively to memberships already renewed or paid;
- Cannot be combined with any other membership discount, promotional offer, or reduced fee arrangement unless expressly agreed by the BCS.
- The BCS reserves the right to verify referrals and decline or withdraw the offer where misuse, duplicate referrals, or fraudulent activity is suspected.
- The BCS reserves the right to amend, suspend, or withdraw the Refer a Colleague Scheme at any time without prior notice.

11. Member conduct and disciplinary action

Members are expected to adhere to applicable professional codes and the BCS Code of Conduct. We may suspend or withdraw membership where behaviour is inconsistent with expected standards, subject to applicable procedures.

12. Suspension, termination and lapse

Membership is personal and non-transferable. A member will cease to be a member in the circumstances set out in the BCS Articles of Association and Membership Rules. Where membership lapses for non-payment, readmission may be considered on settlement of sums due and any applicable penalty in accordance with our Rules.

13. Companies Act guarantee (Ordinary Members only)

Each Companies Act member undertakes to contribute up to £10 to the assets of BCS in the event of it being wound up while they are a member or within one year after they cease to be a member, for payment of debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

14. Elections and governance

Election eligibility (to stand, nominate and vote) varies by category and is set out in the Membership Rules. Officer and Committee roles may have additional experience criteria. AGM attendance and voting are reserved to Companies Act members unless otherwise stated.

15. Digital services and content (functionality and access)

Access to the BCS portal, journals and digital content is provided for your personal, professional use. Do not share your login. All intellectual property in BCS content remains with BCS or its licensors; you may not reproduce, distribute or exploit content without permission.

Many membership benefits are delivered online and require internet access and a compatible device. Some benefits (such as in-person events) are delivered in specific locations, primarily within the UK. Access to journals or digital content may be subject to third-party licensing or regional restrictions.

16. Data protection

We process personal data in accordance with the BCS Privacy Policy available on our website and the Portal. By applying for membership, you acknowledge our privacy notices and, where required, provide consent for specified communications.

17. Changes to these Terms

We may update these Terms to reflect operational, legal or regulatory changes. We will notify members of material changes in advance where reasonably practicable.

18. Liability

Nothing in these Terms limits our liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence, fraud, or other liability that cannot be excluded by law. Subject to the foregoing, we exclude liability for any loss of profit, loss of business, or indirect or consequential loss arising in connection with your membership.

19. Governing law and jurisdiction

These Terms and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with them are governed by the laws of England and Wales. The courts of England and Wales will have exclusive jurisdiction, except that consumers resident elsewhere in the UK may bring proceedings in their home courts.

20. Complaints

If you have a complaint about our service, you may submit it in writing to executivepa@bcs.com. We will acknowledge your complaint and aim to respond within 10 working days.

21. Important documents

Your membership is governed by:

- [The BCS Articles of Association](#), where applicable
- [BCS Membership Rules](#) (as amended by trustees)
- [BCS Code of Conduct](#)
- [Membership benefits information](#)
- [BCS Privacy Policy](#) (latest version on the Members' site)

22. Confirmation

By proceeding with your application, you confirm that you have received and read this pre-contract information and agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.