

Frequently asked questions

How much does membership cost and how do I join? See

<https://www.som.org.uk/membership> and complete the online form. When you join you will pay on a pro rata basis to the end of the calendar year. Prices are renewed annually.

Do I need to live in the UK to join? No! We welcome members from all over the world. International membership is available for all countries outside the UK and EU, and you will receive all the membership benefits, including an online subscription to our journal, *Occupational Medicine*.

Am I eligible to join? Our membership is multidisciplinary. If you are a nurse, doctor, technician, occupational therapist, or any other allied healthcare professional with an interest in occupational health, you are welcome to join. If you are a workplace wellbeing practitioner, please view the voluntary code of practice [here](#) before you request to join. If you are a lecturer, academic or researcher into occupational health, you are also eligible to join. Full time students are especially welcome. If you are not any of the above, please [apply to join](#) as a [professional partner member](#).

If you work for a corporate organisation, apply for your organisation to be a SOM Corporate Supporter at <https://www.som.org.uk/corporate-supporter>.

Planning to retire? Become a SOM Retired Member and share your expertise with SOM. More information [here](#). Continuing as a retired member allows you to remain an active part of the SOM and receive all the membership benefits it has to offer, including online subscription to the journal.

How can I access the SOM journal, *Occupational Medicine*? We have moved to a sustainable, flexible approach of providing access online only. This is included with full membership and is accessed via the [SOM Members Area](#) using your SOM login details; you will then be redirected to the OUP website where you can view all the articles. Do not log in directly on the OUP website. Hard copies can still be received if you wish, although the membership fee is higher.

Can I subscribe to the journal without becoming a member? Subscriptions are available for Institutions and Corporate Subscribers. Individuals are encouraged to access the journal with a SOM membership as it is more cost effective.

Informing us of a member's death It is sad to hear when members have died. Please let us know, so that we can update our records, and can ensure no further membership payments are collected or unnecessary communications sent. You can notify us by email; if possible, please include the following details: full name of the person who has died, date of birth, home address, and date of death. SOM is keen to pay tribute to the life and work of its members. We invite family members, friends, or colleagues to share their memories by writing an obituary for our member eNewsletter. We also welcome tributes for those who were not members of the SOM but have contributed to the SOM's work.

What options are there for Group membership? Group membership is for organisations wishing to pay for a group of five or more people to be SOM members. Group members receive full member benefits with further discounts. Please contact membership@som.org.uk for more details. [Rates for 2026 are here](#).

For existing SOM members

Do I need to wait for my membership to be processed before I can start using my benefits?

When you purchase your membership online via bank card or Direct Debit, you will receive immediate online access to SOM member benefits.

How long does it take for my membership to be set up? Once your application has been received online, it will be processed immediately, and you will have access to the SOM Members Area. The SOM membership team will send you a welcome email. If the membership team have any queries about your application, they will be in touch to clarify details before your membership is approved.

How do I renew my membership? All members renew in the first quarter of the year. You will receive a renewal notice in November. After this date, you can sign into your online account and renew online if paying by debit or credit card. Your membership will renew automatically on the 1st of February if you are paying by annual Direct Debit. If you pay by monthly Direct Debit your membership will automatically renew each month.

How do I cancel my membership? If you are paying by annual Direct Debit your membership will lapse at the end of the year if you cancel. You may contact us at any time to request that we cancel your Direct Debit for you. If you are on a monthly Direct Debit contract (a 12-month minimum term applies) please notify membership@som.org.uk if you cancel so we can amend your account. In all other cases your membership will lapse at the end of the year if you do not renew (either online, over the phone or by bank transfer) and you do not need to do anything further.

Why is there no online way to cancel membership? The membership term is one calendar year, and fees are paid in advance; we do not offer refunds part way through the year; therefore you do not need to cancel your membership. If you do not renew your membership online (or if you cancel your Direct Debit) your membership will lapse.

How can I change my Direct Debit details? If you pay by Direct Debit, your membership subscription is set to auto renew at the time of renewal. If you would like to change this, email membership@som.org.uk

How can I update my membership, such as changing my payment method or membership type? To change your payment method or membership type please email membership@som.org.uk

I am a full member but not receiving the journal, *Occupational Medicine* – what shall I do?
Please email membership@som.org.uk

Can I claim tax relief on my membership? If you are a UK taxpayer, you may be eligible to claim between 20-40% of your membership subscription from HMRC. You may also be able to backdate your claim for previous subscriptions. Further information on making a claim is available on the HM Revenue and Customs website.

I am moving or returning from overseas, how will this affect my membership? We can adjust your membership accordingly to reflect your circumstances, email membership@som.org.uk

How can I change my email address? If you would like to change the email address you have registered with on the website, you are able to do this yourself in the 'user details' section of the Members Area <https://www.som.org.uk/member/home>

How can I update my personal details and contact preferences? You can do this at any time by logging into the website and going to the 'user details' section of the Members Area <https://www.som.org.uk/member/home>

SOM events

Can I cancel or update my event booking? No refunds can be given on cancellations made less than seven working days before the meeting. Delegate substitutions are possible – email admin@som.org.uk. To make a cancellation or changes to your event booking, email admin@som.org.uk

How can I get my CPD certificate? If you attended an event which is CPD accredited or a SOM webinar, you will be sent an attendance certificate. Please note that the certificates only become available after the event has passed.

I have booked an event on behalf of someone else, but I have not received an event confirmation email. Why? The confirmation email is sent to the email address you entered for the delegate at the time of your booking. This is to ensure they receive the event details in advance. If you have any queries about confirmation emails, contact admin@som.org.uk

I have not received my event confirmation – what should I do? If you have booked an event and have not received an email from us confirming the booking, please contact admin@som.org.uk

I have booked for a webinar; how do I watch? You will receive an email before the webinar is due to begin. This will include a link to join the webinar. We also record webinars; the recording will be sent to you afterwards and will also be available in the Members Area.