



## SABI MEMBERSHIP A GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

The South African Irrigation Institute consists of different membership categories as shown in the attached figure. There are membership options for both **individuals** and **companies** to join SABI.

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

The SABI membership framework for individuals working in the irrigation sector makes provision for **Producer, Companion, Student, Associate, Member or Fellow** membership categories, depending on an applicant's qualifications and relevant experience.

Amongst the individual members, we also distinguish between **Corporate** and **Non-Corporate** members – the difference is that Corporate members have voting rights at SABI while Non-Corporate members do not. Only Fellows and Members are Corporate members; all other individual members are Non-Corporate members and therefore do not have voting rights.

SABI was originally founded as a representative body for irrigation designers, and for individuals who are actively involved in the design and supply of irrigation systems, the preferred membership path is to join as a **Student** member while working towards a recognised qualification (see below), and then progressing to become an **Associate** member. After the required amount of relevant experience (see below) is obtained, the Associate becomes a **Member**, and thereafter a **Fellow**. New applicants are therefore assessed against this framework when their applications are received. Please note that one can only become a Fellow after being a Member for at least 2 years.

Although SABI originally served only the **agricultural** irrigation sector, there has been an increase in members working in **landscape** irrigation. Therefore, since 2015, all Fellows and Members are also categorised according to their field of **specialisation (agriculture or landscape)**.

The highest grade of individual membership is that of **Approved Designer** - Members and Fellows of SABI can qualify for the Approved Designer status by passing the relevant **SABI National Exam** (for agricultural or landscape irrigation). In order to maintain this status, the Approved Designer must collect a minimum number of continuous professional development (CPD) points during every 2 year cycle by taking part in SABI activities. As an interim measure, persons who work in landscape irrigation AND meet the application requirements for SABI Member, and have passed the Landscape Irrigation Association's Advanced Design Course will be recognised as Approved Designers (Landscape) when they join SABI.

**Companion** membership is aimed at any individual that works in the irrigation industry but not in a design or design-related capacity, such as soil scientists, agronomists, horticulturalists, landscape irrigation installers ("fitters"), landscape architects, advisors (on plants, seeds, fertilisers, etc.), general sales persons, and so forth.

**Producer** membership is exclusively for irrigation farmers and farm managers.

The recognised qualifications and relevant experience are shown below:

List of recognised qualifications:	List of relevant experience:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tertiary degree or diploma in agricultural, civil or mechanical engineering, agricultural or horticultural sciences, or built environment</li> <li>• SABI Introductory Irrigation Design Course</li> <li>• SABI Introductory Landscape Irrigation Design course</li> <li>• Residential and Commercial Landscape Irrigation Design course</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigation design experience with a SABI Company or Corporate member</li> <li>• Irrigation design experience with a listed SABI irrigation contractor</li> <li>• Irrigation design or consulting experience with consulting engineers, landscape architects or other industry service provider in a field of irrigation acceptable to the SABI Council</li> </ul>

Examples for landscape professionals:

- A person who completed a Practical Fitter's course and is not involved in design: **Companion**
- A person who completed a Practical Fitter's course with more than 2 years' relevant experience: **Associate**
- A person who completed a Residential and Commercial design course with less than 2 years' relevant experience: **Associate**
- A person who completed a Residential and Commercial design course with more than 2 years' relevant experience: **Member**
- A person who completed a Residential and Commercial design course with more than 10 years' relevant experience: **Member** (and can then become a Fellow after 2 years' SABI membership)
- A person who completed an Advanced Landscape Irrigation Design course with more than 2 years' relevant experience: **Approved Designer Member (Landscape)**

## COMPANY MEMBERSHIP

It is also possible for organisations to become members of SABI, and there are two categories:

### COMPANY MEMBER

This is an organisation that:

- Supplies products and/or services in the irrigation industry, **mostly through dealers, OR**
- Is a government department, research institute, non-profit or other public benefit organisation,
- Supports the Institute's mission and goals, and
- Joins SABI for networking, marketing and exposure purposes.

### CONTRACTOR MEMBER

This is an organisation that:

- Provides irrigation services and/or products, **mostly to end users** of irrigation systems,
- Subscribes to the SABI Code of Practice,
- Must employ at least 1 individual corporate SABI member who is accountable for all work undertaken by the company in terms of the SABI Code of Practice, and
- Wants its company name to appear in the national list of SABI Irrigation Contractors published on the SABI website.

The Annual Membership Fee is the same for both Company and Contractor Members but in the case of a Contractor member, the fee includes the membership fee of 1 individual corporate member.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All membership applications are considered by the SABI Council for approval.

The relevant membership application form (individual or company) is completed by the applicant and tabled at a Council Meeting (there are 3 per year) for ratification.

Upon approval, the applicant will be notified of the membership category that was decided on by the Council, and an invoice for the applicable membership fee will be sent to the applicant.

The membership becomes official when the fee has been paid, and the membership certificate is issued.

Annual verification certificates are issued thereafter when the annual membership fees are paid.

For a new irrigation contractor (business entity) to join as a **Contractor member**, the process to be followed would be:

1. The person to be the individual corporate member employed by the contractor applies for individual membership, using the application form for individual membership. Such a person must provide evidence of having:
  - a. A Recognised Qualification and more than 2 years relevant experience
  - b. **Or** Grade 12 and more than 5 years relevant experience
  - c. **Or** more than 8 years relevant experience
2. Once the individual's application is approved to become a Member, the business entity applies for Contractor membership, using the application form for company membership and declaring the Member as the person who is accountable for the business entity's work.
3. The two applications can be made simultaneously but the Contractor application will only be considered if the Individual application is approved for Corporate membership (Member).
4. If the Contractor membership application is approved, one invoice is issued for the annual contractor membership fee which will cover the fees of both the Member and the Contractor.
5. If the Individual application is not approved for Corporate membership, the business entity's application will be considered for ordinary Company membership.

**CORPORATE MEMBERS:  
(SPECIALISATION - AGRICULTURE or LANDSCAPE)**

**SABI MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA**

**FELLOW**

- Recognised Qualification and > 10 years relevant experience
- Corporate member of SABI for > 2 years
- Held a responsible position in Industry for > 2 years
- Fee: R775 per annum

**MEMBER**

- Recognised Qualification and >2 years relevant experience
- **Or** Grade 12 and > 5 years relevant experience
- **Or** > 8 years relevant experience
- Fee: R710 per annum

**DESIGNER FELLOW / MEMBER**

- A Fellow or Member that has successfully completed the relevant SABI National Exam (agriculture / landscape) OR LIA Advanced Design Course (landscape)
- Fee: R800 / R745 per annum

**NON CORPORATE MEMBERS:**

**ASSOCIATE**

- Must work under mentorship of SABI Corporate member
- Recognised Qualification and < 2 years relevant experience
- **Or** Grade 12 and < 5 years relevant experience
- **Or** < 8 years relevant experience
- Fee: R600 per annum

**STUDENT**

- Grade 12 and registered / nominated for appropriate course or SABI approved course
- Fee: R370 per annum

**COMPANION**

- Any other person **not** eligible for corporate membership (including landscape irrigation fitters)
- Able to assist in promoting the Institute's goals
- Fee: R500 per annum

**PRODUCER**

- Irrigation farmer
- **Not** eligible for corporate membership
- Fee: R430 per annum

**COMPANY MEMBER**

- Supplies products and/or services in the irrigation industry, mostly through dealers
- Supports the Institute's mission and goals
- Fee: R5900 per annum

**CONTRACTOR MEMBER**

- A company providing irrigation services and/or products, mostly to end users
- Subscribes to the SABI Code of Practice
- Must employ at least 1 individual corporate SABI member who is accountable for all work undertaken by the company
- Company name appears in national list of SABI irrigation contractors
- Fee: R5900 per annum (includes membership fee of 1 individual member)