

The New Fellow of the IAFL Users Guide 2021

Welcome to the best professional organization in the world! This guide is an attempt to help you jump in with both feet to experience all the benefits your fellowship offers.

The glue that holds the IAFL together is collegiality. There are no political turfs; commitment to the health of the organization is truly in the hearts of every Fellow. We become like family; our children become friends; our spouses become travel companions. This guide is being written during the Covid-19 pandemic under the assumption we will one day be able to return to the way we were. Zoom anyone? Only time will tell.

The most important fact about you becoming a Fellow is that you now have a connection to a trusted colleague just about anywhere in the world. Your mind will be opened to the endless subtle differences between cultures and the practice of law. You will never again feel safe making an assumption about the law, or how it is practiced, in another jurisdiction - but you will feel safe that you can find someone to help you, and your client.

A Bit of History

The IAFL was formed in 1986 by Fellows of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a few lawyers in Europe who had come to know each other through work. It's fair to say that much of the drive came from a desire on the part of the Americans to take advantage of relationships with lawyers in other jurisdictions, and of the US tax benefits of travel for business purposes. The original name was the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (following the AAML) and the organization was incorporated in New York. The original stated purpose, which continues to this day, was to improve the practice of law and the administration of justice in the area of divorce and family law throughout the world.

The rather arcane and cumbersome name was changed in 2015 to the International Academy of Family Lawyers, a more relevant, current and easily understood name.

Once little more than a travel club, the IAFL became much more after Past President Ian Kennedy of Australia pushed for the development of a long-term strategy plan at his meeting in Vancouver, Canada in 2009. In the years that followed, each President in succession, David Salter of England, Cheryl Hepfer of the US, William Longrigg of England, Nancy Zalusky Berg of the US, Mia Reich-Sjögren of Sweden, and now Marlene Eskind Moses of the US has advanced that work to ensure the sustainability of the organization. They have taken steps to ensure that we retain our place as the leading organization of practicing lawyers who are recognized by their peers as the most experienced and skilled family law specialists in their respective jurisdictions.

For most of the life of the IAFL there has been the umbrella organization of the IAFL (often referred to as *The Mothership*) and three chapters - European, USA and Canadian - and a non-chapter group just called "the rest of the world". In 2017 the decision was taken to form a fourth chapter, the Asia Pacific Chapter. The first meeting of the Asia Pacific Chapter was to be held in Bangkok, Thailand in February 2020 but had to be cancelled due the pandemic, and rescheduled. That was to have been the first time that we were to have four meetings a year- historically there have been three meetings a year, an AGM for The Mothership, a European Chapter meeting and a conjoined USA and Canadian Chapters meeting.

Structure

The IAFL is organized in accordance with its bylaws <https://www.iafl.com/media/5801/iafl-bylaws-approved-20180602.pdf>. The term of President was historically two years but since the addition of the Asia Pacific Chapter, and the additional annual meeting that resulted from an annual meeting of that chapter, the terms have been varied to accommodate the scheduling of meetings. This link will take you to the current executive committee, <https://www.iafl.com/about/iafl-officials-committees/iafl-executive-committee/>. Their duties and responsibilities are set out in the bylaws. Most important is the requirement of attendance at the meetings if you are elected to the Executive Committee or a member of the Board of Governors. These are coveted positions and bring significant responsibility.

Each chapter has its own management, and our administration is undertaken by a talented team of independent contractors, who are based around the world. Our longest-standing contractor, Executive Director Donna Goddard, is based in the UK as are Ali Massey, Sarah Lenoir and Sarah Broadbent. Daphne da Rosa is based in Hong Kong and the US team led by USA National Director Valerie Smith are based in Florida, USA.

Committees and Contributions to the Development of Family Law

Technology has greatly facilitated the work of our committees. Where once it was challenging to accomplish any goals meeting only two or three times a year, we have been able to make significant progress in the last few years. You will find the list of committees here, <https://www.iafl.com/about/iafl-officials-committees/>. Even a cursory review of the committees tells you much about the vision of the Fellows of the IAFL. From expansion beyond western culture to mentorship of new Fellows and international human rights issues. IAFL has Observer status at a number of the Experts Groups and Special Commissions of The Hague Conference, as well as a close working relationship with The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) Permanent Bureau. We have a strong and very active amicus committee who have been given permission to intervene in the US and UK Supreme Courts and the Cour de Cassation in France.

The committees have undertaken significant work to advance meaningful contributions to the development of family law. We held the first worldwide international Surrogacy Symposium, <https://www.iafl.com/events/past-events/surrogacy-may-2015/?categoryId=6361>, in London in 2015 to educate on the different provisions that existed in over 30 jurisdictions and to highlight the many tangential issues and unanticipated consequences of assisted reproductive technology.

The IAFL facilitated an important discussion on the family law consequences of Brexit between lawyers in the United Kingdom and the European Union in 2017, <https://www.iafl.com/events/past-events/brexit-june-2017/?categoryId=6526>. That conference led to the creation of a bi-partisan working group who have advised law makers and the UK Ministry of Justice in the run up to Brexit.

The IAFL also provided meaningful leadership to delegates from Japan during the time they were considering becoming a signatory to The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, <https://www.iafl.com/events/past-events/hague-symposium-june-2012/?categoryId=6205>

Some impressions from Fellows: What they wish they had known before their first few meetings

Be deliberate about meeting new people. IAFL conferences/meetings are attended by hundreds of Fellows and guests. Getting thrown into the mix as a new Fellow or guest may be intimidating, but you will find Fellows very welcoming.

There is nothing to stop you taking positive steps before the meeting to make sure that your connections are not left to chance. Prior to every conference, IAFL posts the list of all delegates registered. The list includes their name, their position within the IAFL, if any, whether they are accompanied by or bringing a guest, and where they are from. You can review the list and think about whom you would like to meet. You can visit that person's website, read their bio and look at the list of their publications and presentations. Identify mutual interests. If you are struggling in finding a personal connection to the person you are interested in meeting, think about cases you have had that may have a connection to the geographical region where this person practices. Email them before the meeting to say hello or ask a seasoned Fellow if they would mind making an introduction to you at the meeting.

Yes, this may seem a little "stalker-ish," but we are not suggesting you compile a dossier on the person of interest. Spending even a couple of minutes reading about the people you are interested in connecting with, will enable you to establish a personal connection, and maybe even ease anxiety you may feel approaching them. Letting the people you approach know that you are familiar with the work they have done or published, is flattering, and alerts them to your genuine interest in establishing this connection.

At the meeting, look out for the members of the Executive Committee who will have ribbons on their name badges - introduce yourself to them and ask them to introduce you to people in general, or to anyone specific who you are hoping to meet. At your first meeting your name badge will be a different color, so that they can easily see you and make sure that you are made to feel welcome. You don't need to be an extrovert to meet new people and there are lots of opportunities to have one-on-one conversations, it's not just large groups.

Before your first meeting you will be allocated a 'buddy', who is a Fellow who will be attending the meeting. They will email you before the meeting, so even if you don't know lots of (or any!) people before your first meeting, there will be someone you have had some contact with, and who you will be able to meet at the meeting. The night of the Welcome Reception, people who are coming to their first meeting are invited to come to the reception 30 minutes before the start so that they can meet their buddy and members of the Executive Committee in a more intimate environment.

IAFL meetings/conferences are comprised of two distinct parts: (1) educational program, and (2) social program. Attend both. Educational programs are presented by world-class practitioners. Do not skip these. This is your opportunity to advance your knowledge.

During educational programs, take advantage of opportunities to meet new people. Sit next to someone new and mingle during breaks. If you find meeting new people stressful and exhausting, the educational program may be one of the best times to meet new people for you. Sitting next to someone new during educational programs gives you a "pressure-free" opportunity to engage with a new person, while keeping the focus on the material. This is also true for breaks. Although short, these breaks provide a fantastic opportunity to connect with other attendees. The time to visit is short, and if the conversation is stalling, it is easy to "escape" back to the program. Many of the educational programs

have seating at a round table to enable discussion to take place on family law issues between delegates.

The social program is as important as the educational program. The IAFL puts a lot of thought and effort into every event during a meeting. These events are curated to provide the attendees with a cultural experience and connection to the location, though art, music, and cuisine. Attending the social program events is often one of the best ways to develop relationships and get to know people - they are relaxed and provide you with the opportunity to spend time with Fellows in an informal environment. Do not skip these. These experiences are well worth the ticket price.

However, if you are on a tight budget and cannot register for all events (and don't worry if you can't do everything - there will always be Fellows who don't do the social program and who go out for lunch together, go shopping or spend time together informally), do not miss the Welcome Reception, which is included in the registration cost, and the President's Dinner. These two events are the staples of the social program. Both events are attended by most, thus providing you with yet another opportunity to meet more people and establish new connections with the group.

Leave your "bubble." Perhaps you are a guest or arrived at the conference with a friend or another Fellow. Do not be joined at the hip throughout the conference. While it is nice and comfortable to have someone introduce you to others, do not miss opportunities to meet people outside of your friend's group.

Maintain connections post-conference. Follow up, send an email, send a card, collaborate on a project, consult on a legal matter, connect on social media. IAFL gives you an opportunity to build long-lasting professional and personal connections, friendships.

The dress code is primarily dictated by the location of the meeting – do a bit of research before you go regarding acceptable dress in geographic location. People get dressed up for the President's Dinner and sometimes we have a theme, which is just for fun - there are always a few people who go to town and play with this, but many people don't do anything different, so don't worry about it. Dress code for the education is informal, though presenters normally wear business attire. Most people wear smart casual attire for the Welcome Reception and dinners - men don't need the formality of a jacket and tie unless they want to, and women's attire ranges from cocktail dresses through to much more informal wear. Wear things that you feel comfortable in and that are culturally appropriate for you, rather than feeling anxious about whether you will manage to get the tone 'right'.

Think about the events that you will be attending and where we are going to be. Some cultures frown upon bare shoulders or arms for women, or shorts for men. Make sure that you have comfortable shoes. For Americans, European cities tend to be more formal, and many feel more comfortable avoiding tee shirts and shorts. Women will be grateful to have brought a shawl/scarf even in places like Hong Kong which can be steamy and hot but air-conditioned hotels can be quite chilly.

A Word from the Executive Director

Hello and welcome to IAFL! My name is Donna Goddard and I am the Executive Director of this well-oiled machine! I am ably assisted by a worldwide team of contractors: you will have met Sarah Lenoir (England) our Admissions Secretary who processes all applications to join IAFL as well as our referrals database, dues collection and assists with meetings; Ali Massey (England) is the go-to person for IAFL webinars, meetings and conferences as well as European Chapter administration and meetings; Sarah

Broadbent (Scotland) is currently spearheading the development of IAFL publications as well as assisting with UK team administration and IAFL and European Chapter meetings; in Hong Kong, Daphne da Rosa manages Asia Pacific Chapter administration, chats and meetings and our newest additions in the US a very able team headed by Valerie Smith will manage USA Chapter chats, meetings and administration. You can see the team on our website at www.iafl.com/about/iafl-officials-committees/iafl-contractors/. We are all here to help and no question is too trivial... please don't hesitate to contact us if you have a question... if you're not sure who to ask, start with me donna.goddard@iafl.com.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to our website which, I hope, you will visit regularly, and which contains all the information that you might need from us. I would encourage you to get to know the FIND A LAWYER page (<https://www.iafl.com/find-a-lawyer/>) - this is how other Fellows and members of the public will find your details. Please make sure that you have made this easy for them by specifying your practice areas, up-to-date contact details, the counties in which you practice if you are in the US, the languages that you speak, and a recent picture of yourself. Think about where people will search from - you may be based in Oakland, but to people in Europe they are more likely to search for San Francisco. You are able to update your details at any time by logging in to the website and using the EDIT PROFILE option (<https://www.iafl.com/member-options/edit-profile/>). The website also includes a wealth of handy information about forthcoming IAFL events and webinars; papers and programmes from past IAFL meetings; recordings of recent IAFL webinars; a library of articles on family law topics; and a referrals section (<https://www.iafl.com/member-options/referrals/>) detailing family lawyers in jurisdictions where we have very few or no Fellows who have been recommended by our Fellows.

As I am sure you have gathered by now, IAFL is a wonderful organisation through which our Fellows and their families build professional and personal relationships with like-minded people from around the world. We want to make your experience as easy and as enjoyable as possible, so please, if there is anything that I or my team can do to help let me know! I look forward to seeing you at IAFL chats and webinars and sometime soon at an in-person meeting!

With best wishes,

Donna Goddard
Executive Director

A Word from the President

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to the International Academy of Family Lawyers. We are pleased to have you join outstanding colleagues from all over the world. In addition to being renowned family law practitioners, we are also comprised of skilled family law judges and brilliant scholars. Being a Fellow is an honor and a privilege. You now have the opportunity to interact with other IAFL Fellows who will be your friends, mentors, referral sources, travel companions, and teachers. The more you get to know other Fellows, the more your legal network will grow and the more valuable the IAFL will become for you. The more you involve yourself with IAFL work including committee membership, continuing legal education presentations, service on Boards and projects the sooner you will reap the rewards on a personal and professional level.

Included in this User's Guide are excellent tips which will be of tremendous assistance if followed. I am grateful to Past President Nancy Berg and Past President William Longrigg for heading up this project

and to the Chapter Presidents who also contributed. We are fortunate to have very capable and caring independent contractors who help us run our organization for whom we are most grateful.

I look forward to greeting each of you personally and congratulating you on your accomplishments.

Warmest regards,

Marlene Eskind Moses
President

A Word from the USA Chapter President

The USA Chapter is a founding chapter of the IAFL and its largest chapter historically and currently. Prior to COVID-19, the IAFL USA Chapter held a meeting annually within the continental United States or Canada as the USA Chapter partners with the Canadian Chapter for annual meetings. Despite its size, the USA Chapter is a close-knit group of esteemed family lawyers who are privileged to have significant international practices. As with life, the more you put forth, the more you gain. Commit to being active in the IAFL and you will be blessed tenfold in terms of friendships, professional support and international knowledge.

This President shares her top ten (10) tips for mastering IAFL meetings. First, attend, attend, attend. Nothing blossoms without inputting energy and networks cannot thrive in a vacuum. You won't regret going the extra mile to get involved and the IAFL will astound you with all it offers. When possible, arrive early to accommodate jet lag so you can enjoy the Welcome Reception refreshed and relaxed.

Second, participate as much as possible in all CLE sessions, tours, hospitality hours, Welcome Receptions, President's Dinners, etc. Take refuge in your hotel room only to recharge your batteries for more education and socializing. The sites for meaningful tours at any IAFL destination so far exceeds the time allotted that you will never go wrong attending the scheduled adventures and will leave the destination wanting more. The golf tournaments provide a great deal of camaraderie and should not be missed no matter your skill level.

Third, don't hesitate to attend alone. Someone traveling solo can be added to other Fellows' existing dinner reservations far easier allowing greater opportunities to wine, dine and make new friends. Sometimes simply sitting alone will cause the naturally gregarious IAFL Fellows to seek you out. Introduce yourself to IAFL contractors and leadership as they were all in your shoes at some point and will always be helpful. If, on the other hand, you bring a significant other encourage him or her to participate as well.

Fourth, become a 'Dine Around Devotee.' Most meetings offer sign-ups for top restaurants during registration. While you will not know your dinner companions, trust that the evening will be worth your while and fosters friendships.

Fifth, challenge yourself to sit with strangers at every opportunity and be sure to linger in the lobby or at breakfast. Tours with coaches allow for longer and quieter conversations than receptions so take advantage of the opportunity.

Sixth, train your Judges and opposing counsel to acknowledge your commitment to the IAFL and accommodate your calendar accordingly. Early upon being admitted to the IAFL, share your

involvement and travel obligations with your Courts and colleagues. In time, your Courts and colleagues will refrain from scheduling your cases during IAFL events.

Seventh, incorporate your IAFL involvement and time commitments into your initial client consults. Share that your participation in IAFL events allows you direct access to the top leaders in all sectors of family law globally. Describe how access to cutting edge research from the most recognized experts can help your client's case. Outlining your time commitments and travels for the IAFL keeps clients from getting frustrated during your absences because they were advised at the onset.

Eighth, don't be crestfallen if you see groups of clearly close colleagues leave for dinner together, especially after the Welcome Reception. IAFL Fellows tend to be 'lifers' participating for decades and close relationships are inevitable. Active IAFL Fellows will have been communicating by Zoom, email or text orchestrating their plans together long before arriving. Simply commit to being bold about meeting other Fellows and creating lifelong relationships of your own. Recognize that IAFL Fellows enjoy cherished friendships and that it will happen for you as well if you participate fully.

Ninth, recognize your IAFL colleagues as the true mentors they can be. While you undoubtedly have worthy professional relationships with your local practitioners, they are not committed to making you a better lawyer. In fact, they have no incentive to foster your professional growth. Instead, it will be your international colleagues who you will find are truly committed to making you the best attorney you can be.

Tenth, ultimately don't hesitate to take your children or even your grandchildren. Once you get your bearings, expanding your children's horizons while you expand your own is very rewarding. The IAFL only visits the most special places and your children will be all the better for attending. Share your meeting calendar with school officials as early as possible to avoid friction when removing your child from school. This President feared pulling her eight-year-old son out of school to travel to Iceland but learned that every teacher high fived him upon his departure and were entirely supportive.

Reneaux Collins
President, USA Chapter

A Word from the Canadian Chapter President

The IAFL Canadian Chapter was established in 2005. Prior to that Canadians admitted as Fellows of the IAFL were part of the overall organization. Since 2005 the Chapter has grown to over 50 members. Canadian Fellows hail from Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. At the time of writing, there were no Fellows from the other Atlantic provinces, nor from the territories.

The Canadian Chapter reflects the bifurcated jurisdiction in Canada between the federal government's ability to legislate on matters of marriage and divorce and corollary relief, and the provinces' jurisdiction on matters of property division and regulation of the rights of cohabiting unmarried spouses and their children.

Canada was one of the first countries to adopt the Hague Convention on Child Abduction, and it has been incorporated into provincial and territorial laws, so is recognized across the country. Most Canadian Fellows have experience with the Hague Convention on Child Abduction.

The Canadian Chapter is administered by the Management Committee, comprised of the President of the Chapter, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President. The Canadian Chapter Admissions Committee, which considers applications for admission to Fellowship by Canadian lawyers, presently consists of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President. The Canadian Admissions Committee makes recommendations to the IAFL Board of Admissions on applications received from Canadian lawyers for membership in the IAFL.

At the time of writing, the Canadian Chapter annual meetings are held jointly with the USA Chapter annual meetings.

Karon Bales
President, Canadian Chapter

A Word from the European Chapter President

The European Chapter has about 290 Fellows, a handful each of non-practising, judicial and associate Fellows. If you practice in an EU State, Andorra, the Channel Islands, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Monaco, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey or the Ukraine, you will become a European Chapter Fellow when you join (we have a rather Eurovision definition of 'Europe!'). At the moment we have 30 European jurisdictions represented in our Chapter.

The Chapter has six elected officers - a President, the President-Elect, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. We also have a Chapter Management Committee whose job it is to manage the running of the Chapter and produce an annual budget. We are supported in management of the Chapter by Ali Massey (ali.massey@iafl.com) and she is a good first port of call if you have queries about meetings or other practical issues.

We operate the Chapter fairly informally and are always on the lookout for people who are keen to be involved- if you would be prepared to help, do let us know!

We have an annual Chapter meeting, which is held somewhere in Europe. Our Chapter meeting is normally one of the most popular and there are always a good number of Fellows from outwith our Chapter who attend. We had hoped to have a meeting in London in September 2021, but have decided that that was a little optimistic, so our next dates in the diary are 2022 in Athens and 2023 in Venice.

We also have Introduction to European Family Law meetings for people who are not yet at the point that they can apply for fellowship, but who are nearly there (most of the attendees are near the ten-year, post-qualifying mark, where they can apply for fellowship). These meetings have been hugely popular and we plan them to be less expensive and held in venues that are easily accessible- so far they have been in Berlin, Madrid, Warsaw and Milan. We were due to be going to Kyiv in 2020, but that had to be cancelled with the pandemic and will now take place virtually in 2021. The next Introduction meeting is hoped to take place in September 2022 in Ibiza.

A new venture for us started in January 2021- a monthly informal Chapter chat for Fellows. These take place on zoom at the end of the working day on the second Tuesday of the month. We are hoping that they will give us the chance to keep in touch whilst the pandemic rages, and in particular that there will be a space for new Fellows to become more involved. We are hoping that these chats will also give us a way to communicate the work being done by lots of Fellows who are involved in our Public Policy

Committee- this is a group of nearly twenty people who have each been allocated an instrument or convention (like the Maintenance Regulation or the 1980 Hague Convention). Those people will keep Fellows up to date with developments in relation to their instrument- recasts, special commissions etc and signpost us to relevant conferences and work being done by other organisations.

We are particularly focused on finding suitable Fellows in jurisdictions where we are under, or un-represented and if you have contacts that you would recommend in such places, let the Chapter officers know and we will support you to encourage them to apply.

Our Chapter is a friendly and informal group- it is marked that meetings are safe spaces where we feel able to let our hair down a bit, with friends. You don't find jockeying for position, or people furiously networking or talking about how great their practices are and what great work they have. By definition, if you are accepted for fellowship, you are a leader in your field; you are someone who is professionally respected and who has the best work in your jurisdiction. You will find people welcoming and if you are an introvert, don't know many (or any!) people or just find conferences exhausting and stressful, don't be put off coming to meetings. You can make them what you want them to be, and there is no pressure to do everything. Think about getting in touch with me (or any of the Chapter officers) before you come to a meeting and we will make sure that you know some people before you attend and can speak with you informally about anything that is worrying you- I have had lots of calls about what to wear, worries about dietary requirements and religious observance!

Do get in touch with me if you want to be more involved, if you have ideas of things we could do, or if you want to make connections with Fellows who you have not had the chance to meet. We are all desperate to be back together- many of us have found the IAFL to be one of the most fulfilling things we have done in our careers and have made long-lasting personal friendships as well as seeing our practices develop and grow, as we have been able to learn from colleagues outwith our own jurisdictions and work with them.

Welcome!

Rachael Kelsey
European Chapter President 2020

A Word from the Asia Pacific Chapter President

The Asia Pacific Chapter is new, exciting and probably more diverse than any of the other Chapters. Currently there are about 120 of us "AsPac" Fellows, scattered around Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, New Zealand, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia and Taiwan. We stem from a myriad of cultures, ethnicities and religions, and have different approaches to family law and practice. Nevertheless, linked by the English language, we "AP" Fellows embrace the challenge of working (and networking) together for the families that collide with family law, both domestic and international.

Covid-19 delayed our first standalone Meeting in Bangkok but we wasted little time in setting up other ways to keep in touch. In June 2020 we launched "AsPacEd", an online news sheet, featuring articles on law, practice and news from the Region, some serious, others amusing. Back issues of *AsPacEd* are posted on the IAFL website under Resources – Asia Pacific Chapter Documents <https://www.iafl.com/resources/asia-pacific-chapter-documents>.

AsPacEd was followed by the first “*AP Hour*” in July 2020, an informal monthly get-together of the Chapter. We meet on Zoom on mid-month Mondays, co-hosted by the Asia Pacific Chapter President and President Elect, and featuring 2 guest co-hosts who have chosen a topic for discussion. The session starts with introductions to new Fellows, before the chosen issue is outlined for all. Fellows from assorted jurisdictions join in, and the AP Hour goes by all too quickly.

Going forward, we plan to match all new Asia Pacific Fellows with an established Fellow “Buddy” so that by the time we meet in Bangkok in July 2022, all First Timers will already feel part of IAFL’s famous *Family of Family Lawyers*.

In conclusion, we, the Asia Pacific Chapter, are buoyed by the IAFL collegiate spirit, and delight in being “*Same Same But Different*.”

Hope to see you in Bangkok!

Corinne Remedios
President, Asia Pacific Chapter

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the line of succession work in being an office holder?

There is not really a line of succession. If you are interested in becoming more involved with IAFL, watch out for our Nominating Committee Notice which is posted on the website under <https://www.iafl.com/resources/members-publications> and sent to all Fellows by email. This sets out the offices available for nomination.

What if I am from an area of the world where I cannot to attend meetings frequently?

IAFL aims to hold their annual meeting in different parts of the world in order to make the meetings accessible to Fellows and potential Fellows from all areas. We also have a Financial Assistance with Meetings fund to assist those who might not otherwise be able to attend, see <https://www.iafl.com/member-options/financial-assistance/>.

If I attend with my family will the staff help with my children?

No, you need to make your own childcare arrangements.

If I bring my spouse will there be any programming for them to attend?

Yes, programming for accompanying guests is offered during the education programs.

Does the IAFL provide continuing education credits?

IAFL is able to provide letters confirming attendance at our meeting, mini meeting and webinar education programmes and the number of hours which may assist you to obtain credits. See the CPD Points/CLE Credits link under the relevant meeting in <https://www.iafl.com/events/past-events/>.

Does it matter if I am able to find a cheaper place to stay for the meeting?

Generally no. Although IAFL commits to a room block when we contract with our meeting venues, we recognize that some of the meeting attendees will choose to stay elsewhere. We understand that finances are a challenge for many, but if you are able to stay in the conference hotel you will find it easier to network and socialize (and maximize your sleep!)

Do the events that offer meals take into consideration special food requirements?

Absolutely. Our meeting registration process asks for dietary requirements and these are taken into account when organizing catering. We are not, however, able to accommodate last minute requests.

Under what circumstances can I get a refund for a meeting or just an event?

We generally offer a full refund of registration fees if cancellation occurs more than 4 weeks before the meeting less an administration fee per person to cover credit card costs and expenses of the administrator. No refund of registration fees thereafter. Tour and event fees are refundable if cancellation occurs more than 4 weeks before the meeting only if the IAFL is not charged.

Why do officers receive partial compensation for attending meetings?

IAFL officers are assisted in travelling to meetings of the Executive Committee that take place at Chapter meetings of other IAFL Chapters. They are expected to attend meetings of their own Chapter and the IAFL Annual Meeting at their own expense. They are also given a contribution towards extra room nights required to attend Executive Committee meetings outside of the core meeting dates.