

SGS CONSULTANTS CONNECT

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

1. INTRODUCTION

The SGS Consultants Connect Scheme's key aim is to create a community of like-minded consultants who will be able to gain a variety of benefits through their ongoing relationships with SGS United Kingdom Ltd.

The scheme does not endorse, guarantee or certificate the work of consultants.

2. MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

The scheme comprises of various tiers (including Standard, Gold and Platinum). Applications to join the scheme will be assessed against the criteria for each tier, which can be subject to change.

3. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership is granted for a period of 12 months.

To renew membership the consultants should meet the criteria given in section 2 above for the previous 12-month period prior to renewal.

4. CONSULTANT GROUPS

Where the application is for a consulting company then the company as a whole is required to meet the membership criteria outlined in section 2 above. In the case of a network of consultants then they can apply as a group but each named consultant must meet the criteria individually.

5. SCHEME BENEFITS

Member consultants will have access to varying benefits, depending on the tier for which they qualify. Benefits include use of a dedicated logo, discounted training opportunities, and attendance at exclusive events. These benefits are subject to change.

6. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To apply for membership of the SGS Consultants Connect scheme the consultant should complete the membership application form. This

should then be forwarded to the membership team at SGS Camberley (details included on the form). SGS aims to process all application forms within 2 weeks of receipt. Once granted we will send you your unique membership graphic that will include your membership number.

If having reviewed the application we cannot grant membership then we will contact you by phone to explain the reasons but also to give you the opportunity to discuss this further. This step is designed to ensure that we are fully aware of all relevant information prior to not granting membership. SGS shall be entitled to reject an application on a discretionary basis and SGS shall not be held liable in any way for any such decision. If we are still unable to grant membership then the consultant can formally appeal to the Head of Sales and Marketing.

7. CONSULTANT'S OBLIGATIONS

To gain membership of the scheme the consultant should meet the criteria set out in section 2 of this document and in order to continue with their membership, meet the criteria set out in section 3.

In addition the consultant should sign a declaration confirming that no consultant listed in this application has been convicted of a criminal offence. All named consultants will have read the SGS Code of Integrity and agree to abide by the code and acknowledge that breaches of the Code will lead to termination of their membership.

The consultant should keep SGS updated of any changes to the details contained in their application as any changes may alter their self-declaration.

By completing the application document the consultant agrees that SGS may contact the organization(s) listed to verify the information given.

Therefore the consultants should ensure that providing this information does not breach any non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement in place.

To maintain membership consultants shall be bound by these guidelines along with the SGS Code of Integrity.

8. USE OF THE GRAPHIC

If you are granted a membership at the appropriate level, and during the period the membership is current, the consultant may use the issued graphic to promote membership of the SGS Consultants Connect Scheme. The graphic may be used on the consultant's advertising such as letterheads, business cards and on their website. This list is not designed to be exclusive so please contact the membership team regarding any questions on how the graphic can be used.

A number of exclusions exist on the use of the graphic including:

- Altering the graphic with the exception of on documents printed in more than one colour. The graphic should be used in priority in grey (pantone code 424) and in orange (pantone code 021). However, the consultant may also use the graphic in grey (65% screened black).
- The graphic should not be used as the lead graphic, avatar or profile picture on social media channels including Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter or similar.
- The graphic should not be used on consultancy reports or certificates issued by the consultant.
- In both written and verbal communication the consultant should not state or infer that SGS has certificated, endorsed or otherwise approved the work of the consultant.

9. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

The consultant may withdraw from the scheme at any time during the membership period by writing to the membership team signalling their intention and date of withdrawal. There is no notice period required but attention is drawn to the requirement detailed below about continued use of the graphic.

SGS reserves the right to withdraw membership of the scheme if the consultant is found to be in breach

of the rules and guidelines given in this document. SGS also reserves the right to immediately withdraw the SGS Consultants Connect Scheme in the event of any suspected or alleged or confirmed breach of SGS Code of Integrity. In both cases SGS will give a minimum of two months' notice of intention to withdraw membership.

If the consultant's membership is not renewed after the 12 month membership period, then the membership will be considered lapsed.

Once membership has lapsed or withdrawn by either party then the consultant should forthwith discontinue the use of the graphic or any reference thereto, and will not thereafter use any copy or imitation thereof. Any cost of discontinuing with the graphic is at the consultant's expense.

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

