



Membership Application

Freeman of the Worshipful Company of World Traders

The Worshipful Company of World Traders is a modern, vibrant and active Livery Company working within a fine City tradition. Our membership comprises people from a diverse range of professions and backgrounds who come together at our social and business events to enjoy each other's company and exchange their thoughts and ideas. We are delighted that you are considering applying to join us. Please do feel free to contact us to ask questions or request further information. In the first instance, you may wish to peruse our website – www.world-traders.org.

About This Application Form

The application and interview forms for admission as a Freeman to the Worshipful Company of World Traders are designed to:

- 1 – gain the basic information needed to assess your application.
- 2 – function as a means of ensuring that you have a good idea of what membership involves.
- 3 – provide the basic information we will share after admission with all members to get you started in your life with the Company.

These are then used to arrange your membership interview. If you have any questions about the form, please do feel free to contact the Clerk, Ms Liz Garner, either by telephone: +44 (0) 7377 712 741, or email: clerk@world-traders.org

Please provide the following:

1. Complete the application form at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WorldTradeApplicationForm>

2. Submit to the Clerk (clerk@world-traders.org), with a cc to your sponsor and your seconder, accompanied by:

- a. A short curriculum vitae (preferably no more than two or three pages), which the membership interview panel will use during your interview. This should provide details of your education, professional qualifications, employment history, voluntary work history, positions held in the past 10 years, business associations, awards, publications, and other interests. A relatively detailed LinkedIn profile that can be printed may be used if you feel such describes you appropriately.

- b. A recent 'headshot' photograph file (preferably in colour, good resolution .jpg or .png) which you would find acceptable to be placed on the membership database on the Company website should you be admitted to the Company.

Timetable

Joining:

There is a four-stage process to joining the Worshipful Company of World Traders, your attendance is only required for the first and last stage:

1. After submitting your application, you will be invited to attend an interview with the membership committee.
2. Following your interview the membership committee will consider your application and if approved will forward to Court (the governing body of The Worshipful Company of World Traders)

3. Members of the Court of The Worshipful Company of World Traders consider your application and if approved will invite you to attend the next Court meeting for admission into the Company.
4. You will attend a court meeting to be formally admitted into the Company. Court meetings for Admission normally take place prior to the four major Company events (but occasionally may be at other times) - the Installation Dinner in October, the Members' Dinner in January, the Election Dinner in April and the Thanksgiving Service and Summer Lunch in June. The exact dates are to be found on the website.

Court meetings take place approximately every three months, so you should be aware that it may take up to six months, or longer, between first making your application and becoming a Freeman. You will, however, be welcome to attend Company events from the time your application has been received.

Progressing:

After admission and becoming a Freeman of the Company, members are then able to apply for the Freedom of the City of London. This requires two visits to Guildhall, the first to make your application, the second, usually at least six weeks later, to receive the Freedom in a formal ceremony at the Chamberlain's Court.

The dates on which you can receive the Freedom of the City are determined between the applicant and the Chamberlain's Court, by mutual arrangement.

Freemen who have received the Freedom of the City are expected to apply to receive the Livery of the Company. Normally we would expect around a year to eighteen months to pass between a member being admitted as a Freeman and applying for the Livery, and during that time, we would wish to see they had contributed to the Company's Charitable Trust and attended events as regularly as possible.

Financial Commitment

A note for potential new members of the Company:

The purposes of a Livery Company may be summarised as follows:

1. The furtherance of their trade or craft
2. Fellowship
3. Charitable

The Worshipful Company of World Traders achieves the first two of these with a full programme of events, both social and educational, and the first and last through a Trust fund which is used to support charities or educational institutions which have courses or connections with world trade. All require money.

Subscriptions to a Livery Company traditionally come in one of a number of ways:

1. Quarterage:

This is effectively the annual membership fee, which falls due on 1st October each year. It is subject to review by the Court in July each year and in subsequent years you will be asked to pay by direct debit.

Currently Quarterage is set at:

For Freemen and Liverymen aged 36 and over quarterage has been set £545 per annum (reduced to £525 if paid by DD or BACS)

For Freeman aged 35 or under quarterage is halved.

Quarterage will be charged at the full rate should any Freeman under the age of 35 become a Liveryman.

2. Fines.

These become payable infrequently, when a significant event takes place in a member's career with the Company. The two fines which would concern you at this stage are the Freedom Fine and Livery fine.

a) Freedom fine (which is payable on being admitted to the Freedom)

For those aged 36 and over the Freedom fine is £500

For those aged 35 or under the Freedom fine is halved to £250.

b) Livery fine (which is payable when you progress to become a Liverymen)

The Livery fine is £500 regardless of age.

Note that fines are one-off payments, not demanded annually.

3. Gift Aid.

As mentioned, a principal purpose of the Company is charitable and our Company, like most City Livery Companies, has established a Charitable Fund separate from the Company's funds for this purpose. All members are encouraged to make a Gift Aid declaration and banker's order in favour of the Charitable Fund in whatever sum they can afford. You will be invited to do so on receiving the Freedom of the Company.

4. Events.

The Company organises a number of events each year, and at many of these guests are particularly welcome. They range from modest refreshment, perhaps after a church service or lecture, to the annual Installation Banquet and Election Dinner. Members pay for the events they choose to attend and, of course, for their guests. The exception is the annual World Traders' Tacitus Lecture which is currently paid for by the Company. You may attend events whilst your application is being considered.

Note. If your application is successful, you will be asked for your Freedom Fine and Quarterage as outlined above which will need to be paid before your admission.