

# Brussels Charter for Young Academy Member Exchange

## Mission

This charter is intended to facilitate international learning, exchange and collaboration between young academies and their members. It grants young academy members the opportunity to spend a brief period of time as a visiting fellow at another young academy to learn from best practices, exchange viewpoints and create synergies. By fostering learning and exchange, young academies can optimise their inner workings and engage in collaborations, which in turn can lead to stronger and more impactful pan-European scientific, interdisciplinary and artistic networks and initiatives.

## Principles

Young academy members who are temporarily residing in a country other than the country of their home young academy can request (see below) to become a visiting fellow at the young academy of the host country, provided they are connected to a research or other institution in the host country. Visiting fellows need to have a genuine motivation to learn. They are prepared to participate in the activities of the host young academy and to share best practices from their home young academy, as evidenced through a brief motivation statement at the time of the request.

If the request is accepted, visiting fellows will be invited by the host young academy to participate in ongoing activities (e.g. symposia and events) and internal meetings and discussions to get acquainted with the inner workings of the host young academy. They will be assigned a 'buddy' who acts as a point of contact for the duration of the stay. They can also act as liaisons between young academies (e.g. in setting up collaborations and fostering exchange).

The host young academy considers each request without a priori discrimination (e.g. with regard to nationality, gender, age, disability, language, discipline including science and art) and will reply to requests within a reasonable timeframe, i.e. no longer than one month. However, the host young academy reserves the right to decline requests that do not fit the mission statement of this charter or are deemed too short (i.e. less than one month). Barriers should be removed as much as possible. Language barriers can, for example, be overcome by a buddy who summarises or translates parts of the procedures.

Visiting stays are for a maximum of one year. Should the applicant become an alumnus of their home young academy during their time as a visiting fellow, they will stop being a visiting fellow of the host young academy at the same time. There is no funding or reward attached to the stay.

In line with sustainability considerations, visiting fellows are encouraged to choose low-carbon means of travel.

## Procedure

This charter envisions a lightweight procedure.

Applying visiting fellows:

- are current members of a participating young academy;
- are (physically) present in the host country during their stay;
- are connected to a host research or other institution in the host country;
- send an initial request to the contact person of the host young academy by email at least one month in advance (see contact details in annex). They include a short motivation, indicate the duration of their stay and describe their envisioned contribution;
- include the contact person of their home young academy in the initial request.

Host young academies:

- are a participating young academy;
- acknowledge receipt of the request to the applicant and their home young academy's contact person;
- respond to each request and provide feedback within a reasonable timeframe (i.e. no longer than one month);
- assign a 'buddy' to each visiting fellow, who acts as a point of contact for the duration of the stay;
- accept requests by default, but have the freedom to refuse requests which are not deemed genuine or fitting. In case of refusal, the host young academy explains the decision to the applicant and their home academy by email.

## Membership and ratification

Young academies can join or withdraw from the charter at the annual meetings of the European Network of Young Academies (ENYA) by adding or withdrawing their signature and contact details to/from the charter and its annex.

This charter will come into effect on May 10, 2022 and is valid for a period of three years, after which it will be evaluated by the ENYA academies.

## Annex

The annex contains the contact details (name, e-mail address and website) of all the signatory Young Academies.

Ratified on May 10, 2022 in Brussels

Young Academy of the Austrian  
Academy of Sciences (OeAW)  
Katharina Rebay-Salisbury

Estonian Young Academy of  
Sciences  
Helen Eenmaa

Young Academy of the Lithuanian  
Academy of Sciences  
Vaidas Palinauskas

The Young Academy of the  
Netherlands  
Marie-José van Tol

The Royal Society of Edinburgh,  
Young Academy of Scotland  
Sandro Carnicelli

Young Academy Finland  
Jenni Raitoharju

Hungarian Young Academy  
Katalin Solymosi

Romanian Young Academy  
Paul Sandu

Polish Young Academy  
Jacek Kolanowski

Young Academy of Belgium  
Birgit Van Puymbroeck

Young Academy of Sweden  
Sverker Lundin