



CPOI Membership Rules

Updated: October 2025

Purpose of Membership

Membership of Cultural Policy Observatory Ireland (CPOI) is intended to support individuals and organisations with a genuine interest in cultural policy research, development, and dialogue on and about the island of Ireland. CPOI defines its focus as the study of cultural policymaking, its delivery at all levels (organisational, local, national) and its effects on wider cultural and creative practices on and about the island of Ireland. It is not an advocacy or campaign group; rather it aims to foster a research-focused community that values open exchange, critical engagement, and diverse perspectives.

Eligibility

Applications are welcomed from all parts of the world, all nationalities and ethnicities; from all career stages and from all sectors - public, private and third sectors.

The CPOI Steering Committee approves all membership applications. Membership is open to all within the following categories:

- Researchers (academic and independent) including consultants and postdoctoral/research fellows
- Practitioners: artists, arts and cultural practitioners, cultural leaders and managers
- Organisations: incorporated and unincorporated, commercial and non-profit or social enterprise, or collectives working in relevant fields within the public, private and third sectors
- Policymakers: public and civil servants and other public sector professionals
- Arts educators: Professionals in arts/creative education and training
- Postgraduate students (Masters and doctoral) in relevant fields
- Anyone with a demonstrated interest in cultural policy in relation to the island of Ireland

If you are interested in joining the Observatory but do not think you come within one of the above categories, please [contact us](#).

All membership applications must be made through the online portal.

CPOI Steering Committee reserves the right to change or alter both the application process and terms of membership

Membership Benefits

As a member you will be listed as an affiliated professional and become an active participant in the network and the conversation around cultural policy and related research on the island. You will also receive updates, information on events, opportunities to share work, and opportunities to connect with others.

As a member of CPOI, you will gain access to:

- Access to research findings, reports, and cultural policy insights
- Invitations to public talks, research seminars, and panel discussions
- Opportunities to share your work, contribute to research dialogues and grow partnerships through our network and platforms

Building a Network and Creating Collaboration Opportunities

- Connect with a diverse community of academics, artists, policymakers, public and civil servants, cultural leaders and practitioners, and other interested parties
- Take part in local, national and cross-border networking events
- Learn about opportunities for interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration

Contributing to Professional Development and Growing a Community

- Contribute to shaping cultural policy debates across the island of Ireland
- Raise awareness of your research and practice through our events, workshops, media bank and listserv
- Foster a research-and-practice engaged culture for cultural policy research and data on the island

Membership terms and conditions

At present, membership is free for all applicants.

Membership Responsibilities

By joining CPOI, members agree to:

- Attend and contribute to activities where possible
- As appropriate, propose and coordinate activities that contribute to the strategic development of CPOI (See CPOI Activities document)
- Maintain up-to-date contact details for Membership Records and notify CPOI of changes
- Promote CPOI to colleagues and peers
- Uphold the CPOI Code of Conduct
- Observe and uphold relevant data protection and ethical standards when participating in CPOI research activities, events, workshops or consultation activities.

Code of Conduct

All members are expected to uphold a professional, respectful, and inclusive environment. Discrimination, harassment, or harmful behaviour of any kind online or in-person will not be tolerated.

- Members may not use the CPOI platform or mailing lists to promote professional services or products to other members. Exceptions include notification of publications, conferences, workshops. However, membership is not for procurement of clients or contracts.
- Members may only use the platform to promote and discuss activities and topics related to the focus of CPOI.
- Members may not run any activity under the banner of CPOI without the approval of the Steering Committee. Approval can be obtained by email.
- Members must take all steps to prevent any breach of data access or privacy that places other members and their data at risk, particularly but not exclusively cyber attacks or data theft.

Privacy and Data Use

- Members' data will be stored securely and used only for CPOI-related communications and engagement.
- A list of members will be published on the CPOI website but no personal contact information will be shared on the site.
- Members can unsubscribe or request removal of their data at any time, in accordance with GDPR.
- Membership lists will be reviewed annually and any recurring bouncebacks (for email) removed.

- CPOI will nominate a Steering Committee member to act as data protection oversight. The administrative centre (for the purposes of General Data Protection Regulations) for CPOI is University College Dublin.

Leaving or Changing Membership

- Members may withdraw their membership at any time by notifying the CPOI Executive Committee
- Members are encouraged to update their contact details or sector role as needed to help maintain an accurate network.
- Members breaching the Code of Conduct may be removed without notice by the Steering Committee and/or exclusion from events and platforms.

Review and Amendments

Terms and conditions of membership of CPOI may be reviewed and updated periodically by the CPOI Steering Committee in consultation with members. Any significant changes will be communicated in advance.

CPOI has no legal entity and is an initiative fostered through partnerships between universities on the island of Ireland, coordinated by a Steering Committee reflective of these partnerships. CPOI Members do not have voting rights but can propose activities and changes in operating to Steering Committee members.

Membership Roles in CPOI Activities

CPOI Networks

Cross-promotion and celebration of members' activities, successes and events to the membership and beyond. They may take place online or in-person within the island and beyond. This activity is in keeping with CPOI's goal to promote researchers and engagement with wider issues related to cultural policy research.

Member(s) role: provide necessary materials for CPOI to promote the event broadly, member to share on the listserv and promote their membership to CPOI within their engagement.

CPOI Reads

Events featuring reading for CPOI members. CPOI Reads is a series of one-hour online discussions featuring research relevant to the experiences and study of cultural policy and related research on the island of Ireland. A CPOI member may invite and chair a CPOI Reads session, which is recorded and made available on the CPOI website. This activity is in keeping with CPOI's goal to promote cultural policy related research to a wide audience of practitioners, policymakers and academics. CPOI will promote the session and host the online space via zoom and record and edit the presentations / discussions, making them available online.

Member(s) role: Select and propose a 'read', invite the author / contributors to take part, provide necessary promotional information, chair the session.

CPOI Exchanges

Meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences led by CPOI members for other members and wider stakeholders in keeping with the CPOI focus. These may take place in partnership with other organisations, groups, individuals and within or alongside the programme of other events. This activity is in keeping with CPOI's goal to promote researchers and engagement with wider issues related to cultural policy research. CPOI will cooperate in development of funding applications, dissemination and promotion activity.

Member(s) role: lead and run the activity and source funding, seek support from CPOI as regards funding and event administration.

CPOI Responds

CPOI members may from time to time wish to engage with draft policies or consultation documents. This activity is in keeping with CPOI's goal to promote engagement with current policy issues. CPOI will provide a supportive space and process for members to collectively select policies for review, engage collaboratively in drafting and review responses. CPOI will promote and share the response widely.

Member(s) role: propose policies for review; coordinate/contribute to policy review meetings and response process within agreed CPOI process; circulate/sign/comment on draft responses.