



# Membership Points System Quick Guide

The Membership Points System applies to individuals joining the following classes of personal professional membership:

- Student**
- Graduate**
- Associate**
- Member**

### Student Applicants

If you're studying in a TAFE or university design course you are eligible for Student membership.

### Graduate Applicants

All graduates of tertiary TAFE certificates and diplomas, and University degrees are eligible for Graduate membership. Students graduating from tertiary courses of three years or greater have sufficient points to apply for Associate level. Graduate members are automatically upgraded to Associate after two years of membership.

### Associate Applicants

Associate membership is ideal for designers and design educators who do not require all the benefits of Member (MDIA). It recognises your status as a practising professional and keeps you in touch with the professional network.

Associate members have a minimum of three years involvement with the design professions. Both tertiary education and experience years are counted. Design educators should use their primary tertiary qualification and teaching experience in their Points System calculation.

### Member Applicants

The class of 'Member (MDIA)' is the full professional category of the Institute. Applicants must meet a minimum standard of education, experience and ethics. You must have a minimum of three years verifiable, relevant professional experience.

Design educators may choose to apply for membership as a Member. Educators should use their tertiary qualification and teaching experience in their Points System calculation. You must have a minimum of three years verifiable, relevant professional experience which may be both teaching and professional practice.

### Design Discipline Selection

Membership is generally held in the discipline of your principal studies. If you're working in a different field and a significant proportion of your points come from 'Experience' then you should apply in that category. Membership may be held in more than one discipline if you are qualified by education or experience. If applying for additional discipline membership you must be able to make up the points using experience points from that discipline. Separate applications must be made for each category. (Additional fees apply).

## Use the Membership Points System to determine your appropriate membership selection

As a professional body the DIA sets a minimum standard of education, experience and ethics for an applicant to be recognised as a full professional Member (MDIA).

The Points System recognises the components of professional practise and provides a method of comparing the differing ways practitioners obtain training and experience in design.

Use the points guidelines to assess your appropriate membership. The membership class granted is at the discretion of the Membership Committee of the DIA.

Membership Grade	Points Required	1 Education Qualification Points	2 Experience Experience Points	3 Ethics Professional Ethics	4 Portfolio (Option) Portfolio Points
<b>Student</b>	1.	Enrolment in a university or TAFE design course = 1	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
<b>Graduate</b>	6.	TAFE certificate (1 year) = 3 TAFE diploma (2 years) = 6 3yr degree = 9 4yr degree = 12	Not applicable.	On agreeing to and abiding by the 'Guide to Professional Conduct' = 3	Not applicable.
<b>Associate</b>	9. Education plus Experience = minimum of 3 years.	TAFE certificate (1 year) = 3 TAFE diploma (2 years) = 6 3yr degree = 9 4yr degree = 12	1 year = 2 2 years = 4 3 years = 6	On agreeing to and abiding by the 'Guide to Professional Conduct' = 3	A portfolio may be required or volunteered in some cases.
<b>Member</b>	21. Experience = minimum of 3 years.	TAFE certificate (1 year) = 3 TAFE diploma (2 years) = 6 3yr degree = 9 4yr degree = 12	3 years = 6 4 years = 8 5 years = 10 6 years = 12 7 years = 14 Max points = 14	On agreeing to and abiding by the 'Guide to Professional Conduct' = 6	A portfolio may be required or volunteered in some cases.