# Nomination Guidance

## Distinction and Honorary grades of membership for 2027 admission

FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## Guidance for proposals

Election to Practitioner, Membership or Fellowship of the Faculty Public Health (FPH) via the distinction and honorary routes is the way we recognise those who have made a significant or outstanding contribution to one or more of the following areas:

- to the science, literature or practice of public health
- to raising the profile of public health
- to the work of FPH itself

All candidates for distinction and honorary membership must be nominated by two existing Fellows of the Faculty of Public Health. There is no limit on the number of individuals that a Fellow can nominate each year.

The timeline for the 2026/2027 nomination round is:

- All proposals to be received by **17:00** on **Friday 6 November 2026**. Late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted.
- Successful candidates and their proposers to be notified of outcome in March 2027
- New members to be admitted to membership at the FPH annual general meeting in June/July 2027

In this document you will find:

1. The distinction and honorary grades of membership explained
2. The rules and processes for making a proposal
3. Guidance on completing the nomination form and how to answer questions asked in each section of the form
4. What happens after you submit your nomination form

***The nomination form is available to FPH Fellows via MyFPH. Details of how to access and complete the form can be found on pages 7-9 of this document.***

If you have any queries about the nomination process, please email proposals@fph.org.uk.

# Nomination Guidance
# Distinction and honorary grades of membership 2026/2027

## 1. Distinction and honorary grades of membership

There are five categories of distinction and honorary grades of membership:

- Honorary Fellowship
- Honorary Membership
- Fellowship through Distinction
- Membership through Distinction
- Practitioner through Distinction

Nominees for a distinction grade of membership will normally work within core public health practice, whether in the UK or overseas. Honorary Members are not required to have worked in core public health and may not have a professional public health background. Nominees for Honorary Fellowship, which is the highest level of FPH membership, may or may not have worked in core public health.

### The definition of core public health

FPH considers core public health practice to be work which contributes to **one or more** of the three domains of public health:

- Health improvement, including work to improve mental and physical health as well as health inequalities
- Health protection, including disease prevention, environmental health and urban planning
- Improving services for clinical effectiveness, efficiency, service planning, audit and evaluation, equity or clinical governance

Public health intelligence, which supports these three domains, including academic research, is also considered core public health as part of FPH's nomination criteria.

For the purposes of the nomination criteria, the Fellowship Committee considers that someone is working in core public health if their primary work and/or role falls within one of the domains above.

## Honorary Fellowship

Only **ten** Honorary Fellowships can be awarded each year, and proposals should demonstrate outstanding achievement in public health.

Honorary Fellows will have made an exceptional contribution to one or more of the following areas:

- Improving the health of the public
- Improving the practice of public health
- Contributing to the remit of the Faculty of Public Health

Those awarded Honorary Fellowship use the designation HonFFPH.

Candidates for Honorary Fellowship who do not make the final ten may be awarded Honorary Membership if they are eligible for this category.

Examples of previous recipients of Honorary Fellowship include:

- Past FPH Presidents
- Chief Medical Officers who have made a substantial impact on public health
- Public health champions whose efforts have been instrumental in major changes to UK and global public health policy

Honorary Fellows do not pay an annual membership fee and are exempt from participating in the FPH CPD scheme.

## Honorary Membership

Honorary Membership is FPH's way of honouring those people who do not work in core public health practice but have made a significant contribution to the science, literature or practice of public health or have rendered a major service to FPH. Only **15** Honorary Memberships can be awarded each year. Candidates for Honorary Membership will not be eligible for any other category of FPH membership (excluding Student and Associate) and will not be on a specialist register in public health.

Those awarded Honorary Membership use the designation HonMFPH.

Examples of previous Honorary Members include:

- Specialists from other medical professions who have made a significant contribution to FPH work and public health policy
- Professionals from other public services, such as police officers, who have made a substantial contribution to public health programmes
- Officers within other UK health organisations or charities who have contributed to FPH work or wider public health

Honorary Members do not pay an annual membership fee and are exempt from participating in the FPH CPD scheme.

## Membership and Fellowship through Distinction

Membership and Fellowship through Distinction are aimed at individuals who work in core public health posts and have demonstrated the appropriate level of competence for the country in which they work or trained.

As a general rule, Membership through Distinction (MTD) is normally for people who work at or above master's degree level in public health practice, policy or research. Fellowship through Distinction (FTD) is normally for people who work at consultant level or above in public health practice, policy or research. Those who have made a contribution to public health from the wider public health workforce or from a lay background should be proposed for Honorary Membership.

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Members and Fellows through Distinction are exempted from participating in the FPH CPD scheme. However, if these members hold a UK licence to practise, they are encouraged to take part unless another CPD scheme is more appropriate to their individual circumstances.

Members and Fellows through Distinction are expected to pay annual membership fees equivalent to all other paying Members and Fellows.

Those awarded Membership through Distinction and Fellowship through Distinction use the designations MFPH and FFPH respectively.

## UK nominees

The distinction route enables the Faculty to offer Membership or Fellowship to public health specialists or practitioners in the UK who are judged to be of sufficient standing but whose careers have not followed a traditional course. They will have now reached a stage where examination or portfolio assessment would not be appropriate.

The process will take into account whether prior opportunities for membership may reasonably have been available during the nominee's career. Membership or Fellowship through Distinction is not an alternative route to Membership or Fellowship by examination or exemption, if such a route could reasonably have been expected of the nominee.

## International nominees

FPH encourages membership from countries outside the UK. However, because of the variability in formal public health training schemes across the world, it is not possible to set comprehensive criteria for MTD and FTD that can be applied across all countries consistently. Proposers are therefore required to testify to the level at which they believe the candidate works and to explain how it compares to similar UK qualifications.

Previous recipients of Membership through Distinction include:

- People from outside the UK who have completed similar training in public health to UK specialists and who have made a significant contribution to public health in their country or region

Previous recipients of Fellowship through Distinction include:

- People from outside the UK who work at a senior public health level, comparable with consultants in the UK, and who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of public health programmes in their own country and/or beyond.

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## Practitioner Membership through Distinction

Practitioner Membership through Distinction is offered to public health practitioners who are not expected to go through the UKPHR practitioner registration process or another applicable professional registration process. This is likely to be for nominees wishing to join FPH as a practitioner from outside the UK and for those who have reached senior levels throughout their career thus far.

Nominations for Practitioner Membership through Distinction must demonstrate that a nominee is currently working in core public health at practitioner level. Full guidance on FPH's criteria for Practitioner Membership can be found here.

Nominees must not be eligible for any other category of FPH membership (excluding Student and Associate). If a nominee is eligible for Practitioner Membership through another route, they are not eligible for Practitioner Membership through Distinction.

Practitioner Members through Distinction are exempt from CPD and pay annual membership fees equivalent to all other paying Practitioner Members.

Those awarded Practitioner Membership through Distinction use the designation PFPH.

**What do we mean by practitioner?**

For the purpose of Practitioner Membership, FPH defines practitioners as members of the public health workforce who work in various areas of public health practice, including health improvement, health protection and health and social care quality (often called "healthcare public health"). FPH considers practitioners to work in many places, for many organisations and in many areas of public health.

## 2. The rules and processes for making a proposal

**Before making a proposal, you should consider the following:**

1. The closing date for receipt of proposals is **5pm on Friday 6 November 2026**. Late or incomplete proposals will not be accepted.

2. Only current FPH Fellows in good standing are eligible to make nominations. Each proposal must be supported by two Fellows.

3. Proposers must have knowledge of the work of the candidates they are nominating and must state clearly in what capacity they know them (e.g. work colleague or personal friend).

4. It is the responsibility of proposers to highlight the work of the nominee in order to bring the key elements relevant to the assessment criteria to the Faculty's attention. Members of the FPH Fellowship Committee, who consider the proposals, cannot take responsibility for failing to consider relevant information that is not included in the proposal form.

5. Proposers should consider their nominee's work in areas relating to equity, diversity and inclusion, (for example gender, ethnicity, women's and migrant rights) to ensure it is consistent with our Anti-racism Framework and the principles FPH advocate.

6. Candidates should not be proposed if they might reasonably be expected to have taken (or take) the FPH membership exams, completed specialist registration or qualify for any other FPH membership category. Nominations for such candidates will be rejected.

7. Proposals must be treated as confidential, but proposers may tell potential candidates that their names are going forward for consideration on the understanding that success is not a foregone conclusion.

**When preparing your proposal, you should also be aware that:**

- Supporting papers and CVs are not required and will not be accepted or considered by the Fellowship Committee.

- The Board delegates the function of assessing nominated candidates to the Fellowship Committee, comprising FPH Officers and four other members. Their recommendations are submitted to the Board for formal approval.

- The Fellowship Committee reserves the right to move nominations between categories and a candidate may receive a different grade to that for which they were nominated. For example, a nomination for Membership through Distinction may result in an award of Fellowship through Distinction or vice versa.

## 3. Completing the nomination form

1. The nomination form is available via the MyFPH member portal. Only forms submitted through the portal will be accepted.

2. Each nomination must be supported by two FPH Fellows in good standing. The first proposer will need to ask the second proposer for their FPH membership number to begin completing the form. **Please note**, once the proposal has been 'submitted' by either proposer, it cannot be amended.

3. Proposer 1 should complete the form as far as possible and click 'save changes' (not 'submit proposal'). This will trigger an email alert to proposer 2 inviting them to review the form.

4. If proposer 2 is happy with the content and does not want to make any changes, they should 'submit proposal'. This will send an email to proposer 1 asking them to also 'submit'.

5. If proposer 2 makes changes to the form which should be reviewed by proposer 1 before submission, they should click 'save changes' once complete. An email alert will be sent to proposer 1 asking them to review the amended form and, if happy with the changes, 'submit proposal'. Proposer 2 will then be requested by email to 'submit' the proposal.

6. Once the nomination form has been submitted by both proposers, a confirmation of receipt email will be sent to proposer 1 and proposer 2.

7. Specific evidence of the nominee's contribution to one or more of the criteria must be provided on the nomination form:

   a. contribution to the science, literature or practice of public health
   b. raising the profile of public health
   c. contribution (or potential contribution) to the work of FPH

   The evidence will be used by the Fellowship Committee to judge the candidate's suitability and to score the application.

8. Do not assume knowledge of a candidate's excellence. Provide concise evidence of their substantial individual contribution to public health, above and beyond their role. A list of job titles is unlikely to be enough.

9. Please ensure that you adhere to the word count where stated and that your answer to each question is within this limit. Nominations which provide insufficient detail will be rejected.

If you have any queries in relation to completing the form, please email proposals@fph.org.uk.

Distinction and honorary grades of membership are for recognising significant or outstanding contributions to public health or to FPH and a scoring system is used to evaluate the evidence provided against the assessment criteria. Although each nomination will have been put forward for a particular membership category, the Fellowship Committee will score each nomination according to the same criteria and then award the most appropriate grade of membership.

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## Section 1 – **Nominee details**

Proposers are asked to provide contact details for their nominee.

## Section 2 – **Membership category and professional practice**

Proposers are asked:

(a) To select the membership category for which they wish to nominate their candidate. Only one may be selected.

(b) To indicate whether their nominee is working in core public health practice. This allows the scorers to decide whether an application is suitable for a distinction or an honorary grade.

| Is the nominee working in core public health? | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| **Meaning …** | Nominee is working in core public health | Nominee is not working in core public health |
| **Therefore …** | Candidate will be considered for a distinction grade | Candidate will be considered for an honorary grade |

The Faculty's definition of core public health is outlined earlier in this document.

(c) To indicate whether their nominee is working as a minimum at specialist level or equivalent. This allows scorers to decide whether the applicant is working at the minimum level required for FPH Fellowship. If a nominee is not working at specialist level, they may not be eligible for Fellowship and will be considered for Membership or Practitioner Membership through Distinction.

| Is the nominee working at specialist level or equivalent? | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| **Meaning …** | Operating at least at specialist level, or the equivalent post in a non-medical employment structure | There is no evidence of the candidate operating at specialist level or equivalent |
| **Therefore …** | Candidate meets minimum standards for Fellowship | Candidate may not be eligible for Fellowship and will be considered for Membership or Practitioner Membership through Distinction |

Proposers who answer 'yes' to (b) and (c) above will need to provide evidence that the nominee is working in core public health and/or at specialist level when completing section 3.

## Section 3 - **Assessment criteria**

Please provide evidence against each of the assessment criteria:

1. the nominee's current job title and employer details;
2. the nominee's professional qualifications, honours and training (dates and institutions), and the professional organisations of which they are a member;
3. details of the nominee's contribution to the science, literature or practice of public health, raising the profile of public health and/or to the work of FPH (maximum 300 words);
4. how FPH might benefit by awarding membership to the nominee (maximum 300 words).

Acceptable evidence includes:

- Working in a specialist or equivalent post outside of the UK
- Providing programmes, research or policy equivalent to specialist standard in a non-medical capacity

This check ensures that all proposals for a distinction grade of membership, regardless of whether they result in Fellowship or Membership, meet the baseline standard for the professional capability every member must demonstrate in order to be part of FPH.

The scoring system used by the Fellowship Committee is as follows:

| Criterion | Score | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| **Contribution to the science, literature or practice of public health, raising the profile of public health and/or the work of FPH** | **No** evidence of significant contribution to public health | Minimal but insufficient evidence of significant contribution to public health | Evidence of **good** contribution to public health practice, policy or research, raising the profile of public health and/or the work of FPH | Evidence of **significant** contribution to public health practice, policy or research, raising the profile of public health and/or the work of FPH | Evidence of **outstanding** contribution to public health practice, policy or research, raising the profile of public health and/or the work of FPH |
| **Award is of benefit to FPH** | **No** identification of benefit to FPH | Some benefit to FPH identified, but of minimal potential impact | | Identified role(s) – or potential role – (present or future) in promoting or developing FPH's work (e.g. in advocacy, education or standards) | Identified **major** role(s) (present or future) in promoting or developing the FPH's remit at a governing, strategic or policy level |

The scores are only a guide for the Fellowship Committee; the final decision for each nomination is agreed through discussion and consensus.

## 4. What happens after you submit your nomination form?

1. The Fellowship Committee meets annually to assess the nominations and makes a recommendation to the FPH Board of those to be awarded distinction and honorary grades of membership. Those elected by the Board will be invited to accept their award and will be admitted to membership at the Faculty's AGM in June/July 2027.

2. The Fellowship Committee retains the right not to make an award to a candidate if the majority of committee members believe that the award is inappropriate in light of the personal or professional status of the candidate, or if there are other factors that have an influence on their nomination. This could include, for example, rejecting a nomination if there was significant evidence that a nominee had conducted work that undermines the professional and moral values of FPH, either independently or via supporting an employer with a poor human rights record.

3. The Fellowship Committee will endeavour to make a judgement on the appropriateness of each nomination. However, proposers and committee members accept that such judgement is limited to the committee members' assessment of the information contained within each nomination. The Board may request further scrutiny of a nomination if insufficient information is available, and the Fellowship Committee is in doubt of their ability to reach a reasonable decision.

4. Proposers will be informed of the Board's decision by email in March; no information will be provided before then. The Board has ruled that there shall be no correspondence on decisions of the Fellowship Committee. This means that feedback will not be given on any of the results or decisions made.

5. In the event of rejection, proposals will not be considered until the next annual meeting of the Fellowship Committee when a new submission will be required.

September 2026