

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF LETTERS, HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

STATUTES

Approved by the Swedish Government
26 June 1975, with amendments approved on 1 December 1988,
30 June 1994 and 27 June 2019

translated to English in October 2025*



* In the event of any ambiguity in the interpretation of the Statutes, the official Swedish version shall prevail.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters,
History and Antiquities

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The Aims of the Academy

§ 1

The aims of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities are:
to promote research and other activities within the fields of the humanities, religious studies, legal studies, social sciences and cultural heritage management;
to collaborate with Swedish bodies and organizations with similar areas of activity;
to initiate and support international collaboration within research areas covered by the Academy's aims, and to maintain connections with foreign academies, learned societies and international research organizations;
to publish in various forms academic works within the Academy's areas of activity;
to distribute grants and awards to deserving researchers and others who have contributed to the aims of the Academy; and
to comment on matters within the Academy's areas of activity, when invited to do so by the Government or public authorities, or when required by the Academy's interests.

The Composition of the Academy

§ 2

The Academy consists of four categories of member:

up to ten *Honorary Members*;

Working Members, divided into a historical–antiquarian class and a philosophical–philological class. Within each class the number of Working Members under the age of 72 years must not exceed 30;

up to 50 *Foreign Members*, divided between the same two classes, with no more than 25 in each; and

Corresponding Members, Swedish and Foreign, in unlimited number.

Honorary Members have the right to attend and participate in the Academy's proceedings, with voting rights.

Foreign Members have the right to attend the Academy's proceedings, without voting rights.

Corresponding Members do not have the right to participate in the Academy's proceedings.

§ 3

A person may be elected as an Honorary Member if they have, through knowledge, active support or in other ways promoted the aims of the Academy.

§ 4

Working Members and Foreign Members are elected from among those who have made outstanding contributions within the Academy's areas of activity.

§ 5

A person may be elected as a Corresponding Member if they have made meritorious contributions within the Academy's areas of activity.

Election of Members

§ 6

The election of an Honorary Member, Working Member or Foreign Member takes place when the Academy, at the proposal of the class, decides that a vacant seat should be filled.

The election of a Corresponding Member may take place after a written proposal is submitted by at least two members.

§ 7

1. When the election of a Working Member is to take place, every Working Member and Honorary Member of the relevant class is invited to submit a written nomination to the Secretary General, nominating a candidate who is permanently active in Sweden and has not reached the age of 60. On the appointed day, the class prepares a list of nominees, ranked according to the number of votes they have received, either in writing or at the meeting. The list is presented at the next ordinary meeting of the Academy, during which the Academy sets a date for the election. Written notification of the election day, along with the list of nominees, must be provided to all Honorary Members and Working Members in good time. Only those on the list may be voted upon. Absent members may submit a postal ballot. If, at any time, there is only one

nominee, successful election requires that two-thirds of the votes cast support the proposal.

2. For the election of an Honorary Member, each class prepares a set of proposals. The election is conducted as described in Section 7.1. The Academy decides to which class the Honorary Member will belong.

3. For the election of a Foreign Member, the class prepares a list of nominations. The election is conducted as described in Section 7.1.

§ 8

Proposals to elect a Corresponding Member may be submitted at any of the Academy's meetings. The election shall take place at the subsequent ordinary meeting.

§ 9

1. A Working Member should, within one year of being notified of their election, assume their membership by presenting or submitting a scientific work. Anyone who has been elected and, without valid reason, fails to fulfil this obligation is considered to have declined the election.

2. Membership is for life; a member can resign from the Academy by written notification.

The Academy's President, Vice President, Secretary General, Vice Secretary General, officers and Executive Committee

§ 10

The Academy elects from among its Working Members, for a term of two years, a President to preside over the meetings of the Academy and its Executive Committee. The President is also the chairperson of their class.

The other class elects from among its Working Members, for a term of two years, a chairperson, who also serves as the Vice President of the Academy.

Re-election of the President and Vice President may take place at most twice, unless there are special reasons.

In the event that both the President and Vice President are unable to attend, the Academy and the Executive Committee meetings shall be chaired by the member

among those present who was the earliest to be elected to the Academy.

§ 11

1. The Academy elects from among its Working Members, for a term of three years, a Secretary General. The Secretary General is also the secretary of their class. The other class elects from among its Working Members, for a term of three years, a secretary, who also serves as the Vice Secretary General of the Academy. Re-election of the Secretary General and Vice Secretary General may take place at most once, unless there are special reasons.
2. The Secretary General is employed by the Academy in a position that corresponds to the required assignments.
3. The Academy may employ officials required for its operations.

§ 12

It is the duty of the Secretary General:

- to handle incoming and outgoing correspondence;
- to issue notices of meetings of the Academy, its classes and the Executive Committee;
- to prepare and present agenda items;
- to take minutes at the meetings of the Academy and the Executive Committee;
- to ensure the implementation of decisions made by the Academy and its Executive Committee;
- to be responsible for the Academy's records; and
- to appoint the officials required for the Academy's operations, to determine their duties and lead their work, and otherwise to tend to matters pertaining to the operations of the Academy.

The Secretary General may delegate to a staff member the authority to handle a specific matter or group of matters referred to in this Section.

§ 13

The Academy's Executive Committee consists of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary General, the Vice Secretary General and five members elected by the Academy. The term of office for the five elected members is three years with the possibility of one re-election. The Executive Committee meets upon summons issued by the Secretary General in consultation with the President. If not all members of the Committee are present, only decisions agreed upon by at least five members are valid. The minutes of Committee shall be made available to the members of the Academy.

§ 14

The responsibilities of the Executive Committee are:

to hold overarching responsibility for the management of the Academy's properties and other assets;

to make financial decisions and enter into agreements required for the management of the Academy's assets and publication activities, and for the execution of specific decisions made by the Academy;

to otherwise manage the Academy's financial affairs in accordance with the provisions of Section 24;

to serve as the board of the foundations administered by the Academy;

to prepare matters referred to the Committee by the Academy; and

to submit proposals to the Academy on any matters not otherwise covered by the Academy's decisions.

Boards, Committees and Councils

§ 15

The classes annually appoint among themselves the necessary committees. The committees handle the scientific issues and other business referred to them by the Academy, the President, the Secretary General, the Executive Committee or the class.

§ 16

The Board of Trustees consists of the President, the Secretary General, all previous holders of the position of President, and four other Working Members, two from each class, who are appointed by the Academy for a term of two years in accordance with proposals from each of the classes. The Board of Trustees drafts proposals to be put to the President and the Secretary General as well as members of the Executive Committee. The Board of Trustees also drafts matters regarding Honorary Membership, election of Corresponding Members, honorary distinctions and other issues referred to it by the President.

For drafting inscription matters, the Academy annually appoints two Working Members (the Inscription Committee).

For drafting publishing matters, the Academy annually appoints three Working Members (the Publication Committee).

To draft special matters or to lead research projects, the Academy can appoint to a committee as many Working Members as needed to deal with the issue in question.

§ 17

A member should not hold an appointment on any board, committee, council or subcommittee for longer than six years, unless there are special reasons. As a rule, a member who has reached the age of 75 should not be elected or appointed to any such position.

The Academy's Rules of Procedure

§ 18

1. The Academy normally holds an ordinary meeting on the first working Tuesday of every month except April, July and August. An extraordinary meeting is held at the President's discretion.

The Academy convenes annually on 20 March for a commemorative day, during which an account of the past year's activities is presented, and the awards and bursaries for which the Academy has received funds through private donation are awarded, unless the bursary regulations stipulate a different day.

2. The election of a President, Secretary General and members of the Executive Committee takes place at an ordinary meeting no later than six months before a new term of office, in accordance with Sections 10, 11 and 13.

If the President, Secretary General or a member of the Executive Committee resigns before the end of the term of office, another eligible member is chosen at the subsequent ordinary meeting to serve in the newly vacant position for the remaining period.

3. At the ordinary meeting in December, members are appointed to the Inscription Committee, the Publishing Committee and the Board of Trustees.

4. No later than the ordinary meeting in December, two auditors and a substitute are appointed to examine the accounts for the subsequent financial year.

5. The classes of the Academy hold meetings in December in connection with the regular December meeting of the Academy. Members are then appointed to the committees mentioned in Section 15 and members are proposed to the Board of Trustees and other committees in accordance with Section 16. When necessary, a Vice President and Vice Secretary General are elected in the class in accordance with Sections 10 and 11. The class otherwise meets when required by elections or other matters. In the event of the unavoidable absence of the President or Vice President, the proceedings shall be chaired by the member among those present in the Executive Committee who was

the earliest to be elected to the Academy. If no member of the Executive Committee is present, the proceedings shall be chaired by the member among those present who was the earliest to be elected to the Academy.

§ 19

No later than one week before an ordinary meeting of the Academy, notice of the meeting and a draft agenda shall be sent to all Honorary Members and Working Members. Before extraordinary meetings and class meetings, a notice with a draft agenda is to be issued as early as possible.

§ 20

For decisions to be approved at the Academy meetings, at least 20 voting members should be present. If the number of voting members present is smaller, an approval decision by 12 voting members is valid. However, on such occasions more important matters should be postponed where possible, until a meeting is attended in larger numbers. For decisions at class meetings, at least ten voting members should be present. If the number of voting members present is smaller, an approval decision by six voting members is valid.

The rules on confidentiality and conflicts of interest are set out in an appendix to these statutes. Every newly elected member is presented with a copy of the statutes with appendix. Amendments to the appendix can be made through a decision at an ordinary meeting of the Academy.

§ 21

All elections are by secret ballot.

In the election of members, if two or more candidates have received the same highest number of votes, a new round of voting is held among those who are present at the meeting. If this also results in two or more candidates receiving an equal number of votes, the election is decided by drawing lots.

If voting of other type results in an equal number of votes, the final decision rests with the President.

§ 22

At Academy meetings, discussions are not recorded in the minutes. However, members have the right to have their opinion as expressed at the meeting recorded in the minutes.

Academy publications

§ 23

The Academy publishes works approved by the Academy, as well as other publications in the Academy's areas of activity. Matters to do with publication are overseen by the Publication Committee.

Academy funds and accounts

§ 24

The Academy's financial year comprises the period from 1 January to 31 December.

1. A proposed budget for the subsequent financial year must be put forward to the Academy by the Executive Committee no later than the ordinary meeting in December.
2. A proposed annual report for the preceding financial year must be put forward to the Academy by the Executive Committee no later than the ordinary meeting in June. At the same meeting the auditors' examinations of both the annual report and the Executive Committee's discharge of responsibility shall be dealt with..
3. Any fund received by the Academy through a donation shall be managed by the Academy in compliance with the donor's stipulations. Decisions on how these funds are to be managed are made by the Executive Committee.

Amendments to the Statutes

§ 25

Proposals for amending these statutes may be put forward by Honorary Members or Working Members. For a proposed amendment to be admitted for discussion the presence is required of at least 40 Working Members of the Academy. If the proposal is approved by at least two thirds of those voting, it is declared pending until the subsequent ordinary meeting. If at this subsequent meeting at least 40 Working Members are present and the proposal is adopted by at least two thirds of them, it shall be valid and so announced to the Government.

Appendix

The Statutes of The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, Section 20, adopted on 5 February 2019

Confidentiality and conflicts of interest

The Academy presupposes loyalty and discretion among its members as regards safeguarding the assets possessed by the Academy and the reputation the Academy enjoys. Confidentiality applies to any of the Academy's work occurring in written, verbal or digital form which concerns elections, awards and the distribution of research funding. Confidentiality requires that such information may not be disseminated to the general public or outside individuals except when the Academy so decides.

A member may not participate in the administration of, or decisions on, matters that directly or indirectly impact the relation between the member and the Academy. The same applies if there is any other particular circumstance which could cause the member's impartiality in the matter to be called into question.