



Statutes

Preamble

The International Students of History Association is an international academic non-profit association. It aims to bring students of history together to study history in all its facets. Since ISHA was founded in its first form in 1990, young people from all over Europe have been able to exchange ideas and bring together different cultural and historical traditions. By doing this, not only has their academic view on history and historical processes been changed their understanding of other peoples and cultures had been increased. So in addition to providing a better knowledge of history, ISHA contributes to bridging the gaps between east and west, north and south and between history and the future.

Chapter 1

Name, Seat, Language

Article 1

Name

The name of the organisation is "International Students of History Association", hereafter referred to as ISHA. It is an association as specified by art. 60ff in the Swiss ZGB.

Article 2

Seat

The seat of the organisation is in Zurich, Switzerland.

Article 3

Language

The official language as well as the working language of the organisation is English. Other languages may be used as working language when necessary and appropriate.

Chapter 2

Aims and Means

Article 4

Aims

ISHA is an international academic non-profit association that aims to promote international co-operation and understanding among students in the field of historical research.

Article 5

Means

ISHA pursues its aims as mentioned in article 4 by the following means:

- a) Encouraging the exchange of ideas in all fields of historical education and research.
- b) Keeping contact with and between its members.
- c) Encouraging members to organise seminars, conferences and other academic activities.
- d) Assisting members in organising the activities mentioned above.
- e) Publishing its own publications.
- f) Any other activities ISHA sees fit aimed to so long as not specifically prohibited by applicable laws.

Article 6

Financial means

The association's income consists on

- a) Contributions & subsidies
- b) Donations, gifts, heritages and legacies
- c) All other incomes and profits.

Chapter 3

Definitions

Article 7

- a) "General Assembly": the general assembly of the members of ISHA, hereafter called GA.
- b) "International Board": the board of ISHA, hereafter called IB.
- c) "Council": the advisory body of ISHA.
- d) "Treasury Committee": the committee that supervises the financial administration of the IB, hereafter called TC.
- e) "State of Affairs Meeting": meetings between IB, Council and representatives of all members and observers as stated in art. 7 f. and g. of informative nature, hereafter called SAM.
- f) "Member" or "Members": the members of ISHA are those organisations that fulfil all requirements of membership as stated in article 29
- g) "Observer" or "Observers":
 - a. those organisations which aspire to become a member of ISHA and are recognised by ISHA as observers.
 - b. those former members of ISHA that are recognised by ISHA as observers.
- h) "Carnival": Carnival, the periodical academic publication of ISHA.
- i) "Official Year": the official year of the organisation starts on August the 1st and ends at July the 31st of the following year.

Chapter 4

General Assembly

Article 8

Remits

The GA is the supreme body of ISHA and has exclusive power to:

- a) Alter the Statutes and the Standing Orders
- b) Dissolve the association
- c) Terminate membership
- d) Decide the annual fee for members and minimum donation for friends of ISHA
- e) Approve the budget of the association
- f) Elect members of the IB
- g) Elect the TC
- h) Elect the Council.
- i) Discharge the previous IB
- j) Elect the editor of Carnival
- k) Dismiss elected officials who neglect their duties, violate these statutes, the Standing Orders or the interests of ISHA

Article 9

Compulsory meeting

- a) The GA meets at least once per year. Additional sessions can be convened by the IB or on written request at least by 20% of the members.
- b) The IB must send an invitation and agenda for the GA to all members at least six weeks before the date of the meeting.

Article 10

Voting rights

Every member has the right to vote in the GA. Every member has one vote. Observers do not have a vote in the GA but are allowed to participate.

Article 11

Proxy votes

Members can delegate another member or an observer to represent them at the GA. The IB must be informed in writing about the proxy votes before the start of the GA. One member or observer can have no more than 1 proxy vote.

Article 12

Decisions

Besides the exceptions stated in the Statutes of ISHA, all GA decisions are taken with a simple majority of votes. Minutes of the decisions taken at the GA are sent to all members and observers and kept in a register by the IB, which keeps that register available for consultation.

Article 13

Every member has the right to bring any business before the GA.

Chapter 5

International Board

Article 14

Definition

The IB is responsible for the administration of ISHA. The IB keeps members and observers informed about each other, co-ordinate their activities, oversees the financial administration of ISHA, represents ISHA and enforces statutes and decisions passed by the GA. The IB is answerable to the GA.

Article 15

Structure

The IB shall consist of a president, a treasurer and a secretary, plus a maximum of two others if the GA decides so. The members of the IB shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the GA by secret ballot. Any individual member of an ISHA member or observer is eligible to hold office in the IB. The term of office of the IB coincides with the official ISHA year. Officials of the IB can be re-elected but may not serve more than two terms in any function of the IB.

Article 16

Voting

Within the IB each member has one vote. Decisions are approved by a simple majority vote of the officials. One member of the IB can give a proxy vote to another member or an observer, who cannot hold more than one proxy vote. Assemblies of the IB are only valid if at least two third of the members of the IB are represented in person or by proxy vote.

Article 17

Binding decisions

Excepting special mandates, all decisions binding the association have to be signed by two members of the IB. On behalf of the association the IB acts as petitioner or defender in lawsuits and is represented there by a member of the IB appointed by the IB for this purpose.

Article 18

Suspension of elected officials

The IB has the power to provisionally suspend elected officials of ISHA but must convene a GA at the next international ISHA activity or within three months, whichever is sooner.

Chapter 6 Council

Article 19

Definition and tasks

The Council is the advisory body of ISHA. Its tasks are:

- a) to advise the IB at its request
- b) to advise the IB on other matters the Council considers important
- c) to assist the IB at its request on matters that are too large to handle by the IB alone. In this case, the Council will work under the responsibility of the IB.
- d) to advise the members to convene a GA when the Council is of the opinion that the IB is not functioning properly.
- e) to search for candidates for each of the organs of ISHA for the next official year in preparation for the session of the GA in which functions are to be elected.

Article 20

Composition

The Council is composed of a maximum of 5 individuals, elected on personal title for an official year. They are elected by the GA with a simple majority. Any individual member of an ISHA member or observer, or Friend of ISHA is eligible for election.

Article 21

Simple majority

Decisions of the Council are taken by simple majority vote. One member of the Council can give a proxy vote to another member, who cannot hold more than one proxy vote.

Chapter 7 Treasury Committee

Article 22

Responsibilities of the TC

- a) The TC supervises the final financial administration of the IB and controls the financial report.
- b) The TC is responsible to the GA and advises the GA on the discharge of the members of the previous IB.

Article 23

Access to information

Each IB must provide the TC assigned to control its financial administration with all required information and is obliged to show all documents, possessions and financial means which are required for its supervision.

Article 24

Composition

The TC shall be composed of two or three individuals, no more than one individual from one member or observer. The candidates for the TC are not allowed to come from the same sections as the members of the IB to be controlled.

Chapter 8

State of Affairs Meetings

Art. 25

The IB can at any ISHA seminar, conference or similar activity convene a SAM. It is open to delegates of every member and observer, as well as to friends of ISHA, meant to let the IB inform the members, observers, and Friends of ISHA about the state of affairs of ISHA and to let the members and observers inform the IB about their current activities. It has no legislative power whatsoever.

Chapter 9

Forms of affiliation

Article 26

Members

- a) Members are corporate bodies who represent students and recent graduates of history or those with evident affinity with the scientific research of history at a university or group of universities within one city and are established conform the laws and customs of their countries of origin.
- b) Every city has a maximum of one member or observer per university unless the GA decides otherwise.

Article 27

Observers

Observers are:

- a) Organisations of students and recent graduates of history or those with evident affinity with the scientific research of history at a university or group of universities within one city who aim to become a member.
- b) Those former members who become observers due to non-payment of the membership fee.

Article 28

Requirements

Applicants for the status of member or observer have to

- register at the IB,
- may not have statutes incompatible with those of ISHA,
- must accept the statutes of ISHA
- and must be democratically run organisations.

Admission shall be granted by the IB.

Article 29

Membership fee

The amount of membership fee shall be €75, subject to annual review by the GA. In case a member has financial difficulties, the IB is allowed to accept a lower fee than the membership fee decided upon by the GA but in no case less than 50% of this amount.

Article 30

Members who have neglected to pay their membership fee automatically become observers.

*Article 31**Termination of affiliation*

- a. Membership ends with resignation of the member, with dissolution of the member, when the member is excluded by the GA or when the member becomes an observer as specified in art. 30.
- b. Observership ends with resignation of the observer, with dissolution of the observer, when the observer is excluded by the GA or automatically when there has been no communication between the observer and the IB for a period of 2 consecutive years.

*Article 32**Exclusion*

Members and observers can be excluded from ISHA on a 2/3 majority vote by the GA if the member or observer:

- a) violates these statutes, the standing orders or the interests of ISHA.
- b) ceases to support the aims and activities of ISHA or fails to live up to the requirements in Chapter 9, art. 28.

If the proposal to exclude a member or observer will be discussed at a GA, the IB must inform that member or observer and all other members and observers in writing at least three months in advance. The member or observer to be excluded has the right to act on its behalf at the GA.

*Article 33**Friends of ISHA*

- a. Any individual who supports the aims and activities of ISHA can become a Friend of ISHA. A friend of ISHA supports ISHA by a donation at least €20 annually.
- b. A friend of ISHA does not have the right to vote in the GA, but has the right to participate in the GA and State of Affairs meetings. Friends of ISHA can take place in the Council and TC.

Chapter 10**Carnival***Article 34**Periodical academic publication*

ISHA has a periodical academic publication called Carnival.

*Article 35**Responsibility*

Carnival has an editor responsible for the issuing of Carnival elected by the GA and directly answerable to the Secretary. Any individual of an ISHA member or observer and any Friend of ISHA is eligible for election.

*Article 36**Term of office*

An editor is elected by the GA for the term of one official year unless the GA decides otherwise.

*Article 37**Duration of responsibility*

Even if the term of office has expired, an editor remains responsible for all editions of Carnival planned for that term.

Chapter 11
Finances*Article 38**Financial year*

The financial year of ISHA corresponds to its official year as defined in chapter 3.

*Article 39**Financial responsibility*

The financial responsibility of the association extends exclusively to the association's capital.

*Article 40**Draft budget*

The IB shall submit a draft budget to the first GA to be held in the official year of their term of office.

*Article 41**Final financial report*

The retiring IB shall submit a final financial report to the first GA to be held in the following official year, which has to approve it.

*Article 42**Maintaining of complete financial records*

The IB has to maintain complete records of all its financial transactions and present a report including income statement and balance sheet to the GA. Any excess of an item within the budget by more than 10% of the total budget as well as any unbudgeted expenses must formally be approved by the IB and reported to the next GA.

Chapter 12
Standing Orders*Article 43**Additional rules*

In addition to the statutes, rules for ISHA can be specified in the Standing Orders.

*Article 44**Majority vote*

The Standing Orders can be established and modified by a simple majority of votes of the GA.

Chapter 13

Altering the Statutes and Dissolution

Article 45

Altering the Statues

- a) To change the statutes bearing the exception stated in Chapter 12, art. 43 b., a 2/3 majority is needed of all the members present at the GA. The IB should inform all members at least 3 months before the opening of the GA that there would be a proposal to alter the statutes.
- b) To change the membership fee stated in Chapter 9, art. 29, and the fee to be paid by the Friends of ISHA, as stated in Chapter 9, art. 33, a simple majority of the member present will suffice. In this case no special advance notice need be given.

Article 46

Dissolution of ISHA

ISHA may be dissolved by a 3/4-majority decision of the GA.

Article 47

Coming into force

These Statutes and any alterations to them come into force on a day specified by the GA that accepts them.

Chapter 14

Final Clause

Article 48

When not providing a solution

In cases where the Statutes and Standing Orders do not provide a solution, the GA decides. When this is not possible due to time pressure, the IB decides provisionally, subject to subsequent approval by the GA.