

Gaining AHI full membership status

Dr. Philip Ryland

The AHI is fully committed to supporting the professional development of current as well as potential future members in whatever field they find themselves working. AHI trustees continue to manage a variety of ways in which members can engage with the association including on-line and face-to-face events and training courses, our newsletter and journal as well as our suite of on-line resources, the annual conference and the many opportunities to make more informal connections with fellow colleagues in the profession. As part of this offering, the AHI also welcomes applications for membership, starting perhaps initially with Associate or Student membership, through to Full membership and for some, onwards to becoming a Fellow.

Two years ago, Lisa Keys and I reviewed and updated the Full membership application process with the aim of making it simpler, more transparent and more accessible. As a result, the application is now based around demonstrating competency across three areas of interpretation:

- **The process of planning;**
- **The process of delivery of interpretive media;**
- **The evaluation of interpretation and its associated media.**

In each case a brief explanation of the process is required (a maximum of 500 words each) together with up to six pieces of supporting evidence to illustrate the comments being made.

The application process for Full membership is explained fully on the AHI's website. There is also an email link for anyone wishing to ask any questions in advance of completing an application.

The completed application is then reviewed by a panel chaired by either Dr. Philip Ryland or Lisa Keys, and if the information supplied in the application form demonstrates competency then full membership status is awarded. If not, the panel will provide the applicant with feedback and recommendations on what further evidence they might wish to see in order to satisfy the criteria for full membership.

The AHI wishes to encourage as many existing or potential new members as possible to apply for and hopefully become full members of the association. So do please consider putting an application together, and if you need help or have any queries, please use the email link on the website, or contact us through the office, using admin@ahi.org.uk

Profile: Beth Morafon

I sought the MAHI membership to reflect my contribution to the sector. I have 20 years' practice in visitor experience creation, so it felt important for me to benchmark my professional development with AHI.

The process required examples of my work to show my competencies in interpretation planning, delivery and evaluation.

In some of the areas, I had a glut of high-quality projects from which to select evidence. But in others it was much harder to find supporting materials. For example, I have a wealth of project delivery but much fewer pieces of evaluation work, so sourcing those slowed my submission.

I referenced all my examples, with matching names for the supporting materials. Last but not least, the form was signed by my former line manager who verified my work.

I was delighted when my MAHI application was approved. It provided recognition of my contribution to the sector and supported my successful appointment as an AHI Trustee. And perhaps it might also bring me closer to a FAHI membership invitation...

I would urge all members to apply for Full (MAHI) membership.