

INTERNATIONAL SECTION BYLAWS

Established by Council on 2 May 2009

ARTICLE I. Name, Affiliation, and Purpose

1. The name of the section is the International Section, a regional organization within the Geological Society of America, Inc.
2. The International Section of the Society is organized in accordance with Article VIII of the Bylaws of that Society and is governed by provisions of that article.
3. The International Section:
 - serves as a focal point for exchanges by affiliated geologists working internationally,
 - coordinates international section meetings
 - promotes international participation in GSA,
 - supports and counsels GSA divisions and committees in aspects of international issues,
 - identifies candidates for GSA awards and honors,
 - strengthens cooperation and cosponsors meetings with international geosocieties,
 - and helps to raise funds in collaboration with the GSA Foundation to accomplish the above goals, and particularly to create Travel Grants for international and domestic colleagues to participate in annual GSA and international geosociety meetings.

ARTICLE II. Geographical Limits

1. For purposes of scientific fellowship and discussion, the International Section shall include all of the international community beyond the limits of the general Society in North America, which includes Canada, Mexico and the USA. Meetings of the Section shall be open to all, particularly the Members and Fellows of the Society and their guests, for attendance at scientific sessions, presentation of papers, and participation in field conferences.
2. For purposes of administration, the emphasis of the Section shall be to serve those Members and Fellows residing outside of North America.

ARTICLE III. Membership

1. Members and Fellows of the Geological Society of America residing within the geographical limits of the International Section shall be members of that Section, and all such affiliates in good standing are eligible to vote and hold office in the Section.

2. Members and Fellows of the North American geographic Sections may become voting affiliates of the International Section by paying \$2 annual dues, and will be eligible to hold office in the International Section.

ARTICLE IV. Officers and Management Board

1. **Officers.** The officers of the International Section shall be chair, first vice-chair, second vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer. The term of office shall be one year for chair and vice-chairs, and staggered two years for secretary and treasurer, both of whom may be elected for a second term. Officers are elected by the Section affiliates by electronic or mail ballot. Unexpired terms of officers shall be filled by appointment by the section chair, with the advice of the management board. Terms of office begin at the close of the annual section business meeting.
2. **Management Board.** The management board shall include the current International Section officers, the immediate past chair, and one voting affiliate of the Geological Society of America selected every three years by the GSA Council to serve as Council Liaison to the section. Meetings of the management board shall be held prior to the Section's annual business meeting. Business involving the entire management board shall normally be conducted by e-mail correspondence.
3. **Election of Officers.** The Nominating Committee of the Section shall nominate candidates when appropriate to fill new or vacant terms of office. If approved by the Management Board, names of the nominated candidates shall be submitted by the Secretary of the Section to the Executive Director of the Society, who shall have a ballot prepared and distributed to the voting affiliates.

A nomination for any of these positions also may be made by any affiliate of the Section in good standing who shall verify with appropriate documentation that the candidate is qualified and willing to serve in that office. The nominations shall be accepted if signed by the Nominating affiliate and received by the Secretary no later than May 1.

The election of officers shall be in accordance with the election procedures of the Society and shall be under the supervision of the Society. All provisions governing the election of officers of the Society which are applicable to the section shall govern the election of officers of the section.

4. **Reports.** The Board shall prepare an annual report of the International Section activities, including reports of the International Section chair, the section secretary (*ex officio* on all committees), and all committees; the section secretary shall consolidate these reports into an annual section report and submit it to the Society no later than 60 days in advance of the Society's annual meeting in the calendar year third quarter.

ARTICLE V. Committees

1. **Program Committee.** A program committee of five voting affiliates, chaired by the Section first vice-chair, shall be appointed annually by the Section chair, with the advice of the management board. The Committee shall be selected to represent diversified

interests and shall include the chair of the local committee, or the chair's representative, at the site where the scientific meeting is to be held. This Committee will assist in the planning of the program for the international Section meetings.

2. ***Nominating Committee.*** A nominating committee of three voting affiliates that are former officers of the section shall be appointed by the Section chair, with the advice of the management board. At least 100 days before the annual business meeting, or when an officer post is vacant, the Committee shall prepare a slate to fill vacancies by a simple majority vote.
3. ***Finance Committee.*** A finance committee of four voting affiliates, chaired by the Section treasurer, shall be appointed by the Section chair, with the advice of the management board; two will serve two-year terms and two will serve one-year terms; the Section chair shall be a non-voting *ex-officio* member. The Committee shall organize all financial undertakings of the Section, particularly fundraising to support the scientific meetings.

The expenses of the International Section, in so far as they shall be paid from the general funds of the Society, shall be limited to ordinary expenses of the Section meetings and balloting expenses relating to election of officers.

In accordance with Article VIII, Section 4, of the Bylaws of the Society, each Section may, with the approval of the Council, make its own arrangements for the raising of the necessary funds for the proper conduct of its operations, especially the solicitation of funds and donations toward educational and international projects. This may be done by means of the registration fees charged for attendance at scientific meetings of the Section. Account of all such funds shall be rendered to the Council at the end of each fiscal year.

4. ***Awards Committee.*** An awards committee of three voting affiliates, chaired by the Section second vice-chair, shall be appointed by the Section chair, with the advice of the management board; one will serve a two-year term and two will serve one-year terms.

The Committee shall determine the nature and number of awards each year, particularly those focusing on international travel and distinguished contributions, and specify procedures in the appended Rules document for their appropriate allocation.

The Distinguished Career Award will be given to a geologist who has made numerous, distinguished and significant contributions that have clearly advanced the international geological sciences through service and or scientific activities.

The Honorary International Fellow Award will be presented at the Section's scientific meeting to one or more international geoscientists who have distinguished themselves in geoscience investigations and/or in notable service to the Society; they do not have to be members of the Society or the section.

5. ***International Liaison Committee.*** An international liaison committee of eight voting affiliates, chaired by the Section Secretary, shall be appointed for two-year terms by the Section chair with the advice of the management board. Each appointee shall have long-

term experiential expertise in one of the eight regions of potential future collaboration, as defined in the Rules of the section, including Europe, East Asia, South Pacific, Latin America, Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and North Asia.

The committee shall conduct liaison with overseas geoscientific societies, universities, other institutions, and especially the Members and Fellows residing outside North America. The committee members shall assist in arranging for appropriate international meetings, workshops, symposia, and excursions within their respective regions.

6. ***Other Committees.*** *Other committees*, such as a Meeting Advisory Committee, may be appointed by the Section chair with the advice of the management board.
7. ***Committee Annual Reports.*** All committees shall prepare annual reports to be approved at the International Section annual business meeting and summarized in the annual management board report.
8. ***Committee Vacancies.*** Vacancies on committees may be filled by interim appointments at any time by the Committee chair with approval of the management board. Committee members may be reappointed up to three consecutive times.

ARTICLE VI. Meetings

1. ***Business Meetings*** of the International Section shall be held annually either during and at the site of the calendar-year fourth-quarter Annual Meeting of the Society, or during and at the scientific section meetings, whichever is most appropriate in a given year. Also at the Annual Meeting of the Society or scientific meeting of the Section, Section officers shall host a reception for all international attendees, and shall attend GSA training sessions as appropriate. Other special meetings may be proposed by the Section's management board.
2. ***Scientific Meetings*** of the Section shall be held at least biennially. Meetings may be either regional or thematic and will normally be held at international sites. The International Section will co-sponsor meetings with other geosocieties, particularly those in the host country. Logistical support for the meeting shall be provided by the GSA International Secretariat and the Meetings Department.
3. ***Reports.*** Immediately following each International Section meeting, the Secretary shall submit to the Executive Director of the Society a report of the proceedings of the meeting.

ARTICLE VII. Rules and Amendment of the Bylaws

1. ***Rules.*** Rules supplementing the Bylaws may be adopted, amended, or rescinded by majority vote of the management board of the International Section.
2. ***Bylaws.*** Bylaws of the Section may be adopted, amended, or rescinded by simple majority vote of the voting membership of the Section and subsequent ratification by the

Council of the Society. All Section Bylaws must be consistent with the Certificate of Incorporation and Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.

Note: The above international section bylaws were prepared 27 March 2009 by the International Division Management Board.