

# Membership Policy for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope Dark Energy Science Collaboration

The LSST Dark Energy Science Collaboration has two categories of membership for scientific collaborators: Members and Full Members. Generally, Full Membership implies an increased level of engagement compared to Membership with the latter providing a path towards the former. Membership can only be granted to individuals who have LSST data rights; i.e., individuals at institutions in the US, Chile, or IN2P3 in France, and those with established access to LSST data rights by MOU with the LSST Corporation.

## DESC Membership

### Rights of Membership

DESC Membership grants access to DESC communication tools, internal website, and documents. Membership does not bring with it access to LSST Corporation (LSSTC) communication tools or internal LSST project documentation. The Membership status allows scientists to learn enough detail about the activities, needs, and coverage of tasks in the DESC to develop a proposal for Full Membership. Each Member's status will be reviewed periodically to confirm the Member's involvement with DESC activities.

### Becoming a Member

New applicants will fill out an online form to explain their expertise and proposed involvement with the DESC. The application will be considered by the DESC Membership Committee, which will strive to respond within a few days of receipt of the application.

### Criterion

Applicants who identify work they wish to pursue that is relevant to the DESC will be granted Membership.

## DESC Full Membership

### Rights of Full Membership

Full Members retain the rights of Members. In addition, they attain the privileges granted to members of LSST Science Collaborations, including access to LSSTC communication tools and internal LSST project documentation. Full Members are also granted access to DESC computing resources and all DESC data products. Full Members are eligible to vote in the Spokesperson and Collaboration Council elections and to be nominated to stand as candidates in these elections.

### Becoming a Full Member

The transition from Membership to Full Membership is based on a short written proposal (a page or two) describing past, present, and future specific contributions. The proposed contributions could be tasks outlined in the DESC White Paper, or tasks that are argued to be important for achieving the science goals of the DESC, as well as managerial contributions and work for the LSST Project. Members of the LSST project are encouraged to join the DESC and may count their contribution to the LSST Project in their time commitment to the DESC. Project members will still be required to make a specific commitment to scientific aspects of the DESC, expressed through activities such as attending meetings, assisting with the development of white papers or other reports, and participating in activities of the DESC working groups.

## Criteria

The following criteria are considered in granting Full Membership: 1. The level of commitment relevant to the DESC – generally expected to be a significant fraction of research time over a period of several years. This could include managerial contributions or LSST Project work. 2. Demonstrated previous engagement with the DESC via participation in collaboration and working groups meetings, relevant publications, presentations, and software contributions. 3. The proposed contributions: \* For research-based proposals, the importance of, and the need for more effort on, the proposed research task(s) within the DESC. \* LSST Project contributions may count if criteria (i) and (ii) are also satisfied. \* Managerial contributions may count if criteria (i) and (ii) are also satisfied.

## Process

Faculty and full-time staff scientists may apply for Full Membership soon after they think they fulfill the above criteria, and may describe contributions of their students and postdocs in the proposal. Postdoctoral researchers and graduate students should apply for Full Membership independently. Graduate students must also provide a recommendation letter from a Full Member.

The proposal should follow a template provided by the Membership Committee, to ensure all pertinent information is collected. Proposals may be submitted at any time and will be considered on a rolling basis throughout the year. The Membership Committee will strive to respond to a Full Membership proposal within two months of its submission.

The Membership Committee considers the proposal and makes a recommendation to the Collaboration Council, which may permit the recommendation to take effect without comment, or may, upon request of Council members or the applicant, vote on accepting or denying the application. If the application is denied, the Membership Committee will normally give feedback to the applicant and encourage a resubmission.

Each Full Member's status will be reviewed periodically to confirm the Full Member's involvement with DESC activities. The DESC will regularly update the LSST Corporation on the list of Full Members.

## Additional Topics

### Membership Policy

Details of the application process and other issues related to Membership and Full Membership are defined in this Membership Policy. The policy is maintained by the Membership Committee. A 2/3 majority vote of the Collaboration Council is required for any significant change in the policy.

### International Affiliates

Membership can be granted only to individuals with LSST data rights. Once a named set of individuals at an institution is awarded data rights, the individuals can apply for Membership with the DESC. Transition to Full Membership requires application for Full Membership, which is reviewed as described in this policy.

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## Appendix: Version History

- v5.3.1: Initial version, ratified by the DESC Council
- v6.1: Removed statement about ratification by LSSTC Board
- V6.2: Updated link to Membership form