

Fellowship Regulations of the Global Designers Association

Article 1: To recognize the outstanding contributions made by global designers to addressing climate change, improving human settlements, and advancing the goals of urban sustainable development, these detailed rules for Fellowship Regulations are formulated in accordance with the Articles of the Global Designers Association(GDA), GDA Management Regulations and other relevant provisions.

Article 2: Fellowship constitutes an important part of the highest academic honor system of GDA.

Article 3: The Fellowship of GDA is nominated and selected once a year.

Article 4: The selection of Fellows shall be conducted on a nomination basis. A candidate for Fellowship must be nominated by at least two members of the Association's Council, directors of its branches, or one incumbent Fellow.

Article 5: Fellowship Nomination

Candidates shall be designers who have demonstrated outstanding innovation in the design field and whose representative works enjoy extensive influence; they may also be renowned experts

and scholars who have made systematic, creative achievements and important contributions in the field of planning and design, or rendered significant contributions to advancing sustainable development and improving the human settlements.

Article 6: Application Tracks

Applicants may choose one of the following tracks based on their own backgrounds:

Basic Research: Applicable to scholars engaged in original research in such fields as human settlements, sustainable development, green and low-carbon development, urban studies, world heritage, urban resilience, and building technology.

Design Practice: Applicable to lead designers in urban-rural planning, architecture, landscape architecture, art and design, etc., with emphasis on the innovation, foresight and extensive influence of their designs.

Education & Outreach: Applicable to university professors, scientists, researchers, and science education policymakers, highlighting teaching innovation and public influence.

Policy & Society: Applicable to government consultants, experts from international organizations, and scholars of scientific ethics, with focus on the far-reaching impacts of planning and design on society, the environment, and ethics.

Article 7: Types and Criteria

Academic Leaders: An h-index of ≥ 30 ; or being a top 1% highly cited scholar in the field; or publishing groundbreaking achievements in top-tier journals (e.g., Nature, Science, JACS, etc.).

Distinguished Designers: Being the lead designer of works with extensive influence; and whose design outcomes have exerted positive effects on addressing climate change, improving human settlements, and advancing sustainability.

Policy and Education Professionals: Serving as a national-level science advisor (e.g., the UK Chief Scientific Advisor); leading the formulation of national standards; or promoting major science policies (e.g., carbon neutrality roadmaps).

Article 8: Key Evaluation Criteria

Original Contributions: Whether the candidate has proposed new theories, new methodologies, or new discoveries, and whether they have pioneered new research directions.

Economic or Social Impact: Whether the outcomes have yielded significant economic benefits (e.g., cost reduction, efficiency improvement) or social value (e.g., health enhancement, environmental improvement, etc.).

Leadership: Whether the candidate has led large-scale teams, laboratories, or projects, and whether they have cultivated young

talents.

International Reputation: Whether the candidate has been invited to deliver keynote speeches at international conferences, and whether they have served on the editorial boards of international journals.

Interdisciplinary Integration: Whether the candidate has promoted cross-disciplinary innovation between design and other disciplines or new technologies.

Ethics and Sustainability: Whether the candidate has taken environmental and social responsibilities into account, and whether the research complies with the principles of green, low-carbon development and sustainability.

Promotion of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI): Whether the candidate has advanced gender equality, participation of minority groups, and global cooperation.

Integrity and Good Academic Conduct: Whether the candidate has a sound moral character, upholds good academic ethics, is dedicated to the design profession, and actively participates in association activities.

Article 9: Types and Requirements for Fellows

GDA establishes two types of Fellowships: Fellow and Senior Fellow (Honorary Academician).

Senior Fellow (Honorary Academician) title shall be conferred on Fellows who are at least 70 years of age, or on those who have made exceptional contributions to GDA and gained prominent international influence.

Article 10: Fellowship Application Process

Phase 0: Pre-communication (Ongoing) Applicants are advised to nominate candidates through the following channels:

The Academic Committee, Executive Committee, branches or committees of GDA.

In principle, each of these bodies shall recommend no more than 3 valid candidates per year.

National industrial societies, associations and other international industrial organizations that are corporate members of GDA.

In principle, each national industrial organization shall recommend no more than 2 valid candidates per year.

The President, Chair and Vice Chairs of the Academic Committee of GDA.

Each of them shall recommend no more than 2 valid candidates per year.

Vice Presidents of the Association, Vice Chairs of the Executive Committee, Fellows of the Association, and Standing Members of the Academic Committee may each recommend 1 valid candidate.

(In addition, the final recommendation of a valid candidate shall require the joint endorsement of either 2 Standing Members, or 1 Standing Member together with the head of a national industrial organization.)

Phase 1: Nomination Period (Opens annually on January 15)

A valid nomination shall be initiated only after being approved by at least two reviewers (including the President and Vice Presidents of the Association, its Academic Committee and Executive Committee, as well as Association Fellows);The nominee shall give consent and sign an informed consent form;The nomination system shall remain open until May 31, 2026 each year.

Phase 2: Document Submission (Accepting submissions on a rolling basis)

The following documents shall be submitted:

A statement elaborating on core contributions, which must align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and Habitat III Resolution;

A written statement from the nominator specifying the uniqueness of the nominee's contributions;

A Diversity & Inclusion Statement (≤ 300 words) illustrating efforts made to advance gender equality, participation of minority groups and international cooperation;

A video of approximately 3 minutes, which may feature explanations of research findings, clips showcasing the outreach of design works, or presentations of policy initiatives.

Phase 3: Peer Review (July–August; submissions received after the deadline shall be deferred to the next cycle)

Blind review shall be implemented (reviewers shall remain anonymous);

A recusal system for reviewers shall be adopted. Recusal shall apply to reviewers from the same university, organization, or city as the nominee, as well as those with potential conflicts of interest;

Each submission shall be reviewed by no fewer than 15 experts: 10 experts from the nominee's application track and 5 from interdisciplinary fields;

Review results shall be categorized as "Highly Recommended", "Recommended", "Pending", or "Not Recommended".

Phase 4: Expert Panel Evaluation (September–October)

Only candidates rated as "Highly Recommended" or "Recommended" shall proceed to this stage;

The evaluation shall consist of a 20-minute presentation of achievements (in-person or via video) followed by a 10-minute Q&A session with experts;

Members of the Fellowship Selection Committee shall be

appointed by the Association President. The Committee shall comprise 1 President and 6 committee members.

Phase 5: Public Notice (15 Working Days)

A public notice shall be issued and an online vote shall be conducted. The vote shall satisfy the following requirements: the voter turnout rate $\geq 51\%$; the approval rate $\geq 70\%$. Voting results shall be kept confidential, and the reasons for objections shall not be disclosed.

Any complaint submitted shall specify detailed facts. The respondent shall submit a statement and supporting evidence for defense within 10 working days, and the case shall be reviewed by an independent panel (members of the original Evaluation Panel shall not participate in the review).

Phase 6: Official Announcement (Annual General Meeting)

The list of newly elected Fellows shall be officially announced at the Annual General Meeting; Fellowship certificates and badges shall be awarded; the list shall be simultaneously published on the official website.

Appeal Mechanism : A candidate who is not selected may submit supplementary evidence within 14 days; the case shall be reviewed by an independent Review Panel (members of the Panel shall not participate in the original evaluation).

Article 11: Rights and Obligations of Fellows

Fellows shall enjoy all the rights of Association members, and shall also be entitled to the following additional rights:

The right to nominate Fellowship candidates;

The right to vote and stand for election as members of the Fellowship Evaluation Committee;

Eligible Fellows shall receive priority for nomination and recommendation for relevant awards;

Eligible Fellows shall receive priority for recommendation for appointment to relevant positions within the Association.

Article 12: Obligations of Fellows

To strictly abide by the Articles of the Association, fulfill the obligations of a Fellow of the Association, and actively safeguard the reputation of the Association and the Fellowship community;

To actively participate in relevant activities of the Association, including academic exchanges, research projects, scientific and technological consulting, talent cultivation, science popularization, international cooperation, and other related work;

To put forward suggestions and advice, and actively promote technological innovation, disciplinary development, and the construction of talent teams in the design field.

Article 13: Penalty Provisions

Fellowship qualification shall be revoked if a Fellow is found in any of the following violation or illegal circumstances:

Being subject to criminal liability in accordance with the law for violating national laws and regulations;

Obtaining the qualification by fraud or deception;

Violating academic ethics, such as plagiarizing others' scientific research achievements or engaging in fraudulent practices in scientific research;

Causing material damage to the interests or reputation of the industry or the Association;

Seriously violating the relevant provisions of the Articles of GDA.

A nominee or the entity where the nominee is employed shall not engage in any activities that may undermine the impartiality of the selection process in any form. Once such activities are verified:

If the violation is committed by the nominee, their candidate qualification shall be revoked, and they shall be disqualified from being nominated for the next three years;

If the violation is committed by the nominee's employing entity, a warning shall be issued and made public, and the nominee's qualification for the current selection shall be revoked.

If a nominator provides false materials, the Fellowship Selection Committee shall verify the case and submit it to the Association for

approval to revoke the nominator's right to nominate. A circularized criticism shall be issued in an appropriate manner, and the nominator shall be suspended from nominating rights for two years. In cases of serious violations, the nominator's right to nominate shall be permanently revoked, and corresponding disciplinary actions shall be taken in accordance with relevant provisions.

Article 14: These Regulations shall be promulgated and implemented upon approval by the President of the Association.

Article 15: These Regulations shall be interpreted by the Secretariat of GDA. The revision and adjustment of these Regulations shall be organized by the Academic Committee of the Association and promulgated upon approval at a meeting of the Executive Committee chaired by the President of the Association.