



IGS Handbook – Awards

This section defines the awards given by the IGS and its Chapters, and the rules for each.

Awards Overview

As of March 2023, the following awards are in place:

Award	Brief Description	Where Awarded	Notes
IGS Award	IGS Members for “outstanding contribution” to the development and use of geosynthetics, related products or associated technologies.	General Assembly	Open call for nominations. Candidates may self-nominate.
			Selection by the IGS Awards Committee
			Form: Diploma, signed by the IGS President and Secretary
IGS Young Member Award	IGS Young Members for “outstanding contribution” to the development and use of geosynthetics, related products or associated technologies.	General Assembly	Open call for nominations. Candidates may self-nominate.
			Selection by award committee
			Form: diploma signed by the IGS President and Secretary
IGS Service Award	IGS Members in recognition of their commitment and dedication to the Society and the greater good of the geosynthetics discipline.	General Assembly	Council members nominate.
			IGS Officers recommend recipients to Council for decision
			Form: diploma signed by the IGS President and Secretary
IGS Young Member Service Award	IGS Young Members in recognition of their commitment and dedication to the Society and the greater good of the geosynthetics discipline.	General Assembly	Council members nominate
			IGS Officers recommend recipients to Council for decision
			Form: diploma signed by the IGS President and Secretary
IGS Plaque	IGS Members in recognition of a specific goal or service	General Assembly	Council members nominate

	achieved by the recipient.		IGS Officers recommend recipients to Council for decision Form: Plaque signed the IGS President and Secretary
IGS Honorary Membership	IGS individual members in recognition of distinguished position, scientific achievement, outstanding service to the Society, or major contributions to the promotion of geosynthetics and their applications over a significant time period.	General Assembly	Council members nominate
			IGS Officers recommend recipients to Council for decision Form: diploma signed by the IGS President and Secretary
			Lifelong membership with no payment of dues
20- and 30-Year IGS Corporate Membership	IGS Corporate Members who have completed 20- and 30-years' unbroken membership.	General Assembly	Form: diploma signed by the IGS President and Corporate Committee Chair
IGS Chapter Service Award	Exceptional service or achievement at the chapter level.	Regional conferences	Maximum one recipient per Chapter
			Chapters nominate
			RAC chairs screen chapter nominations
			Officers ratify Form: diploma signed by the IGS President and Regional Chair
IGS Student Award	Recognizes papers submitted by students	Regional conferences	Maximum one recipient per Chapter
			Chapters nominate
			RAC chairs screen chapter nominations
			Unused or unclaimed nominations are allocated by a committee appointed by the IGS Officers to other candidates
			Officers ratify Form: diploma signed by the IGS President and Regional Chair
			Includes travel bursary

Table1: Awards Overview

The following awards have been discontinued:

- Chapter Award: previously awarded in recognition of a Chapter. Chapters may still be nominated for the IGS Award.
- Special Award: previously awarded in recognition of special merit outside the criteria of other awards. No longer needed.

In addition, the IGS sponsors several named lectures, which are not included in this section.

GENERAL TERMS FOR ALL AWARDS

Awards Aims

The aims of awards given by the IGS and its Chapters are to:

- encourage producers, users, consultants, and scientists who perform special achievements in the fields of manufacturing, application and knowledge of geosynthetics, and related products and associated technologies.
- recognize contributions to the success of the Society.

Period

Each awards round shall be four years. Achievements must have been completed or demonstrated their validity during the four-year period since the last round.

Candidate Eligibility

Candidates may be individuals, groups, companies or other organizations, unless otherwise specified.

All candidates, including within a group, must be IGS Members (Individual or Corporate) or before June 30 of the last year of the round.

All Young Member candidates (including within a group) must be less than 36 years of age on December 31 of the last year of the round.

The IGS Award may be given to members who would also qualify for the IGS Young Member Award (subject to limitations below).

Corporate Members are not eligible for any Young Member or Student awards.

The serving President of the IGS may not be considered for any award.

Serving Officers of the IGS may only be considered for contributions made prior to their term.

Members of awards committees may not be considered for the award they are presiding over.

Limitations

A body of work may be recognized only once; it cannot receive multiple awards in the same awards round or receive a further award in later rounds.

Deadline for Qualifying Membership

The deadline for candidates to be Members of the IGS is June 30 of the last year of the round. In every case, candidates must be fully up to date with payment of membership dues.

Categories

Awards may recognize contributions in any of the following categories:

- products
- testing and testing equipment
- instrumentation, monitoring, and performance evaluation
- design and design methods
- construction and construction methods
- fundamental aspects
- any combination of the above
- other

Nomination Process and Procedure

The process for each award will vary. The process for the IGS Award is the most stringent and can be used as a good practice example for other awards.

Notifying recipients

The IGS Secretariat shall normally notify successful candidates within three weeks of the decision to recognize them with an award.

Presentation and Announcement

Awards shall normally be presented at the event noted in Table 1, or at such other occasion as the Officers may decide.

The results are embargoed until the awards are presented or at such other time decided by the IGS Officers.

Recipients will be announced publicly through IGS channels.

Form of Award

Awards shall be in the form described in Table 1. All awards are non-financial. However, Honorary Membership results in the waiving of future individual member dues and Student Award recipients receive a travel bursary to an IGS Regional Conference.

Except for Student Awards, recipients are not entitled to travel or accommodation expenses to attend awards presentations. Nor do they receive discounted rates to attend the related Regional or International Conference.

Terms and Conditions

All candidates, nominating parties and involved IGS representatives are:

- automatically bound by the rules set out in the handbook.
- required to treat nominations and procedures for each award as confidential.

No award given by the IGS or its Chapters may be considered as an endorsement by the IGS or its Chapters of the winning entry. Recipients may not use such awards for commercial purposes, nor state or imply IGS or Chapter endorsement for their work.

The IGS and its Chapters reserve the right to:

- seek independent expert advice or references for any submission.
- disqualify nominations.
- not to make an award if there are no suitable candidates.

SPECIFIC TERMS FOR EACH AWARD TYPE

IGS Award and IGS Young Member Award

Scope

Recognition of outstanding contribution(s) to the development and use of geosynthetics, related products or associated technologies, through scientific and/or technological work.

Examples include:

- design and construction of a structure
- publication of a technical document (paper, book, article, manual)
- research program
- development of new products and techniques.

Eligibility to Nominate

Any IGS Member may nominate themselves.

Any IGS Member except the members of the Awards Committee may nominate another IGS Member(s).

The following will also be invited to make nominations:

- Publications Committee
- Education Committee
- Corporate Members Committee
- IGS Chapters

Nomination Process

There is a two-stage nomination process. The first stage is initial nomination. The second stage is formal submission of supporting materials for confirmed candidates.

Stage 1:

Nominations must be received by the IGS Secretariat no later than the published deadline, typically nine months before the date of the next General Assembly.

The IGS Secretary will:

- acknowledge receipt and allocate a registration number.
- check the candidate's eligibility.
- contact nominees to confirm their willingness to be considered, and proof of age in the case of the IGS Young Member Award.

Stage 2:

For all confirmed candidates, all supporting documents must be received by the IGS Secretariat no later than the published deadline, at least six months before the date of the next General Assembly.

Format

Stage 1:

Initial nominations must be in English on plain paper (no letterheads) and no more than one page.

Nominations should include:

- The name of the nominee
- A brief statement of the nominee's contribution, e.g.:
 - (a) product, process or methodology description
 - (b) publication reference
- A brief statement indicating the originality and significance of the candidate's contribution.

There is no need to provide further details at this stage.

Stage 2:

Final nominations are made once the IGS Secretariat has confirmed the nominee's eligibility and willingness to be considered as a candidate.

Final submission packs (in English on plain letterhead) should include:

- the name of the nominee
- an executive summary of no more than 25 lines, including a statement indicating the originality and significance of the candidate's contribution.
- materials for which the candidate has been nominated, e.g., a copy of a paper or other publication.
- supporting materials, e.g., scans, photographs, material samples, reports, papers
- a statement confirming that the information given is true and complete in all material aspects.

Several related publications may be submitted together as one submission provided that:

- there is an accompanying explanation of the relationship between the publications and the contribution of the total submission to the advancement of the discipline.
- at least one of the documents was published during the years covered by the current award round.

Awards Committee

After the deadline for final submissions, the IGS Awards Committee will formally consider candidates for both awards.

Appointments

The IGS Officers will appoint all five members of the Awards Committee, including a Chair and Vice Chair/Secretary.

The Committee is typically appointed during the 12 months preceding the General Assembly at which the awards will be given.

Members of the Awards Committee shall be IGS Members selected for their technical expertise and shall be representative of a broad cross-section of the discipline. At least one shall be a member of the IGS Council.

Subject to approval by the IGS Secretary, the Chair may appoint a maximum of five substitute members if regular members are unavailable.

The IGS Secretary or their representative attends all meetings of the Awards Committee as an observer.

Procedure to Decide Recipients

The Awards Committee has sole discretion to decide the winner(s) of each award, subject to consultation with the IGS President or their representative.

If the Committee concludes that no application is of sufficient merit, no award shall be made.

The quorum for meetings of the Awards Committee has four members.

Any substitute member remains a member of the Awards Committee until the end of the procedure in place of the regular member they substituted.

The Awards Committee shall submit its recommendations to the IGS President or their delegate for final review within one week of the Committee's conclusions, who shall respond to the Chair of the Awards Committee within three weeks of the Committee's conclusions.

The Awards Committee then has a further six weeks to alter or maintain its decisions. The final decisions rest with the Committee and will not be subject to further discussion or appeal.

IGS Service Award and IGS Young Member Service Award

Scope

Recognition of commitment and dedication to the Society and the greater good of the geosynthetics discipline. Award recipients will be expected to have contributed over a sustained period, with significant impact.

Nomination and Award Process

The IGS Secretary shall invite nominations from Council members in the form of a written submission of no more than one page.

All submissions shall normally be received five-six months before a General Assembly.

The IGS Officers shall review all nominations and make a recommendation to the IGS Council. The Council shall decide each recipient by simple majority vote, normally three months before a General Assembly.

IGS Plaque

Scope

Recognition of achievement by an individual IGS Member of a specific goal or service to the IGS.

Nomination and Award Process

This award follows the same process as for the IGS Service Awards.

IGS Honorary Membership

Scope

IGS Honorary Membership recognizes individual IGS members' distinguished position, scientific achievement, outstanding service to the Society, or major contributions to the promotion of geosynthetics and their applications.

Limitations

There will be a maximum of two Honorary Memberships per round.

Nomination and Award Process

This award follows the same process as for the IGS Service Awards.

20- and 30-Year IGS Corporate Membership

Scope

IGS Corporate Members who have completed 20- and 30-years' unbroken membership respectively.

Limitations

None. The number of recipients is determined solely by duration of membership.

Nomination and Award Process

Awards are made automatically by the IGS Secretariat, who will ensure that the Chair of the Corporate Committee is informed.

IGS Chapter Service Awards

Scope

Recognition of exceptional service or achievement at the chapter level.

Limitations

A maximum of one recipient per Chapter.

Awards are limited to those Chapters within the same region covered by the corresponding IGS Regional Conference.

Nomination and Award Process

Chapters are responsible for administering the awards and selecting the recipient.

Chapters must provide a justification to via RAC chairs, to the IGS Secretariat at least six months before the corresponding IGS Regional Conference. The Officers will ratify the awards they consider to be justified. The Secretariat will arrange certificates.

IGS Student Awards

Scope

The award aims to disseminate knowledge and to improve communication and understanding of geotextiles, geomembranes and associated technologies among young students practicing in the field of geosynthetics around the world.

Limitations

All nominations must be from Chapters within the area covered by the corresponding IGS Regional Conference.

A maximum of one recipient per Chapter.

The selected student should have been an undergraduate, M.Sc. or Ph.D. student at the time of completing the work for which they are being recognized.

Nomination and Award Process

The IGS Officers determine the number of awards to be given; normally one per Chapter within the region.

Regional Committee Chairs should inform the IGS Secretariat which of their Chapters intend to make student awards at least twelve months before the corresponding IGS Regional Conference. This is essential to ensure travel bursaries are budgeted for.

Chapters are responsible for organizing a nomination process, which may include a contest. The process should include the preparation of a technical paper for the corresponding IGS Regional Conference. These papers should be sent in parallel to the conference and to the IGS.

Regional Committee Chairs must work with the Young Members Committee Chair to satisfy themselves that Chapters are running appropriate arrangements.

Chapters must notify the IGS Secretariat of their award recipient at least three months before the corresponding IGS Regional Conference and no later than the deadline for papers.

If a Chapter does not nominate a student on time, their place will be designated as unclaimed.

If a nominated student fails to submit their full paper on time, their place will be designated as unclaimed.

The YMC will issue an open invitation for candidates to apply for any unclaimed nominations.

A Committee appointed by the IGS Officers, to include the YMC Chair and a member of the Regional Conference Organizing Committee will reallocate the unclaimed awards based on:

- country (preference for students from chapters without nominations and students from countries with no Chapter)
- merit.

Special Terms

The IGS Student Award is the only IGS Award to include a financial payment.

Recipients receive a bursary of up to US\$1,000 to be used solely to cover reasonable travel expenses for attendance at the corresponding IGS Regional Conference. Payment is made after conference attendance.

In the event that the regional conference is held in an online format only, the IGS has sole discretion to allow the recipient to use their bursary for another local or international event endorsed by the IGS, and within a limited time period. This will always be subject to prior approval by the IGS Officers.

Recipient Obligations

Recipients must:

- submit a full paper to the corresponding IGS Regional Conference, following all relevant conference guidelines.
- participate in a dedicated session(s) at the Regional Conference, where they will present their paper.
- submit a written report on the Regional Conference to the IGS and their Chapter.

Regional Conference Organizer Obligations

The IGS Regional Conference organizers must:

- invite the Student Award winners to present their papers within the relevant technical session of the conference (i.e., not a dedicated session for student papers alone). The chair of the session should introduce the student as the Student Award winner from their respective chapter.
- provide the students with a copy of the proceedings and complimentary admission to the full conference, gala dinner, and the exhibition.
- organize a student program, including a recognition ceremony during the conference, and Student Award recipients' participation in corporate receptions, social functions, and activities specific to the conference without cost to the student.
- include the presentation of Student Award certificates in the closing ceremony of the conference.

IGS Rights

As the Student Awards involve the disbursement of funds, the IGS reserves the right not to pay travel bursaries if recipients do not meet their obligations in full.

Creation of Awards

IGS Chapters may establish their own awards, subject to the following:

1. Any award must be restricted to the Chapter's exclusive geographic area.
2. The Chapter must share its proposed rules with its Regional Committee and the IGS Secretariat. Any rules must be consistent in spirit with the rules for IGS awards.
3. The form and design of any Chapter award should be distinctive from other IGS awards.
4. Use of the IGS logo requires prior approval of the IGS Officers.
5. The award should be approved by the IGS Officers.