



Institutional Membership Application Policy

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LSSTC-12

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Eliason', written over a horizontal line.

Patricia A. Eliason
LSSTC Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucas Macri', written over a horizontal line.

Lucas Macri
LSSTC Chair

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Change Record

Version	Date	Description	Owner name
1	9/13/2006	Initial version	Sidney Wolff
1.1	4/20/2007	Amended version approved by LSSTC Board	S. Wolff
1.2	5/11/2007	Amended version approved by LSSTC Board	S. Wolff
1.3	10/27/2009	Amended version approved by LSSTC Board	S. Wolff
1.4	5/28/2009	Amended version approved by LSSTC Board	S. Wolff
1.5	5/5/2011	Amended version approved by LSSTC Board	S. Wolff
2	10/23/2012	Amended narrow focus to only US and Chilean institutions “that can bring substantive contributions with the goal of enhancing off-project activities that maximize the ultimate science output of the LSST.”	S. Wolff
2.1	11/1/2012	Approved by LSSTC Board with one change: deletion of paragraph c) “Direct access for member institution scientists to commissioning data, in addition to operations phase data releases;” from Section 2 “Benefit, Duties and Responsibilities of Members.”	S. Wolff
3	8/27/2013	Added statement in the introduction re: LSSTC’s commitment to promotion and preparation for science with LSST. Added point c) under Section 1.	S. Wolff
	8/27/2013	Elevated to controlled document handle LSSTC-12; previous document 2313 obsolesced. No change to contents	R. McKercher
3.1	9/5/2013	Revision approved by LSSTC Board	R. McKercher
3.2	1/6/2015	Replaced Sidney Wolff with Pat Eliason as point of contact for prospective members	R. McKercher

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3.3	2/3/2015	Replaced references to LSSTC President with Executive Officer; removed reference to Science Council	R. McKercher
4	4/13/2016	Revision approved by LSSTC Board; new policy reflects current LSSTC mission, considers a broader and more inclusive membership, including consortia, and clarifies board approval process.	P. Eliason
5	10/25/2019	Updated content to reflect LSSTC’s revised mission, current link to membership benefits, and change to Board Chair.	L. Hickey
6	01/29/2020	Deleted sections not applicable to current membership parameters and requirements. Updated list of standing committees within document text.	L. Hickey
7	1/30/2020	Updated references to LSST Project to Rubin Obs. LSST.	L. Hickey

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Introduction

The LSST Corporation (LSSTC) was formed to promote the development, construction, operation and scientific exploitation of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (now Rubin Observatory Legacy Survey of Time and Space or Rubin Obs. LSST). With the start of the construction phase in August 2014 when the LSST Project began being supported in its full scope by the U.S. National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy, the mission of LSSTC has refocused. LSSTC, a private consortium of educational and research institutions, is now distinct from the Rubin Obs. LSST Project and, by law, does not have a formal role in the Rubin Obs. LSST construction phase. LSSTC's major mission is to pursue the broader long-term role of promoting, preparing for, and funding scientific activities with the Rubin Obs. LSST, via fund-raising efforts to support the activities of the LSST science community.

The evolution of the mission of LSSTC from implementing the LSST to the operations phase and enabling science calls for a broader and more inclusive vision of Institutional Membership. It recognizes that Rubin Obs. LSST will enable research to be carried out at a significant number of institutions that do not have large astronomy and physics programs. To implement these goals, LSSTC will consider applications for Institutional Membership from institutions and consortia of smaller institutions that can help with the goal of maximizing the ultimate science output of the Rubin Obs. LSST. LSSTC considers Institutional Members to be educational or research organizations engaged in education or fundamental research in areas that are closely related to the LSST's science missions. A new institutional member should contribute to and advance the mission of LSSTC, as described in Section 2, Application for Membership.

A consortium of institutions and programs that are individually small on the scale of a typical U.S. University department may be considered for membership under the same criteria as for institutional members. This enables astronomers and scientists who are currently outside of LSSTC institutions to participate, thus broadening the engagement of the (U.S./world-wide) science community. The total number of researchers and scale of program of the consortium should be comparable to that of typical current LSSTC institutional members.

LSSTC will consider applications that meet the above criteria for Institutional Membership from single institutions or from consortia of institutions with smaller astronomy/physics programs. The benefits and responsibilities of membership are broadly defined in Section 2. Institutions and consortia of small institutions interested in joining the LSSTC must submit an application that will be considered by the Board of Directors of the LSSTC on a case-by-case basis. Section 3 describes the application process.



1 Benefits and Responsibilities of Members

New members of LSSTC acquire benefits and are expected to fulfill certain obligations.

Among the Benefits are:

- Building and belonging to a science community that includes many of the world's leading astrophysicists, cosmologists, and particle physicists, working together through LSSTC and its Science Collaborations to create an era of transformative science with the Rubin Observatory LSST.
- Access to the best opportunity for financial support of researchers involved in preparations for the Rubin Observatory LSST operations. Because NSF has stated clearly that it will not set aside dedicated funds for preparatory activities related to this project, LSSTC is aggressively seeking such funds from private donors, primarily for its members. As the coordinated voice of LSSTC institutions throughout the country, LSSTC has proven success in raising funds for those planning to carry out research with the Rubin Observatory LSST.
- Preferential access to LSSTC's Enabling Science funds and programs. To date, all Enabling Science awards have been made either to scientists active within the (LSSTC-supported) Science Collaborations or from LSSTC member institutions.
- The opportunity to clearly demonstrate your institution's commitment to current and prospective faculty, post docs, and students who plan to use the Rubin Observatory. Big data in general, and LSST in particular, will dominate the astrophysics landscape in the coming decade. Because most of those striving to undertake cutting-edge research with data from the Rubin Observatory LSST will participate in some preparatory activities, access to funds that support such work – even before the start of operations – helps recruit and retain top faculty and students.
- Validation for prospective faculty, postdocs, students, alumni, and the world community that your institution has a leadership role in a project that will transform the field of astrophysics.
- The opportunity to serve the physics and astronomy communities by helping to maximize the scientific output and societal impact of the Rubin Observatory LSST, with subsequent benefit for your faculty, researchers, students, and alumni.
- Participation in LSSTC Board meetings, which provide in-depth, wide-ranging updates from the leadership of the Rubin Observatory LSST.
- The best, and early, access to information about the status of the Rubin Observatory, its policies, and policies in preparation.
- Naming of an Institutional Representative to the Board of Directors to support the LSSTC mission and represent the interests of their institution or consortium of institutions. Representatives are expected to attend and participate in Board meeting.

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- Voting rights in Board elections. Each Institutional Member will have one vote for elections to the bodies prescribed by LSSTC By-Laws.
- Serving on LSSTC Board Committees. Institutional Representatives or others at member institutions are eligible to serve on committees such as the Audit and Finance Committee, Admissions Committee, Development Committee, Nominating Committee, Enabling Science Committee, and the Science Collaborations Advisory Committee
- Participating in the election of the Executive Board of Directors as described in the LSSTC By-Laws¹.

Among the Responsibilities are:

- a) Payment of dues of \$25,000 per year to support the corporation as budgeted by the Executive Officer and approved by the Board of Directors. Member dues during the first calendar year of membership will be prorated based on the month the Institution is admitted for membership.
- b) All new Institutional Members will pay an additional one-time admission fee of \$75,000 in recognition of the long-term investments of those admitted before January 2010. The \$75,000 admission fee is distinct from the \$25,000 dues for the first year of membership. ***The one-time admission fee will be waived for any Institutional Member joining in calendar year 2020.***

2 Application for Membership

The Corporation continues to consider new applications for Institutional Membership as it transitions to its new mission of enabling science in preparation for LSST operations. New members should contribute directly to the activities of the LSST and the LSSTC. Examples of such contributions include, but are not limited to:

- a) Providing technical expertise that the Project could call upon for participation in design, implementation or operations reviews;
- b) Providing unique experience or expertise in operational planning and related activities that adds value to the operational phase of Rubin Obs. LSST;
- c) Providing scientific expertise to contribute substantially to the efforts of the existing Science Collaborations or to develop new scientific opportunities for Rubin Obs. LSST not currently covered by the Science Collaborations;
- d) Providing significant support capability for the Rubin Obs. LSST Science Collaborations;
- e) Providing support for activities funded by LSSTC's Enabling Science Initiative -- for example, promoting access to resources such as computational infrastructure, and hosting meetings and supporting workshops.

¹ A subset of Representatives is elected to 4-year terms as Executive Board Directors who have formal voting rights.

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The LSSTC is accepting written proposals for Institutional and Consortium Membership for groups of small institutions. A proposal for membership must address how the Member contributes to the LSSTC mission, and should list relevant individuals with their interests and likely contributions. Prospective Institutional Members should have a preliminary conversation with the LSSTC Executive Officer and/or Board Chair to discuss how best to prepare the application.

Prospective members should send their proposal to the LSSTC Executive Officer:

Patricia Eliason
Executive Officer
LSST Corporation
933 N. Cherry Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85721
PEliason@lsst.org

3 Board Approval Process

The LSSTC Executive Officer will forward the proposal to the Admissions Committee with comments. The Admissions Committee will then review the proposal and associated input, conduct consultation with the Executive Board Chair and Executive Board members as needed, and formulate a recommendation for presentation to the LSSTC Board.

The LSSTC Board of Directors will consider requests for new Institutional and Consortia Membership for groups of small institutions on a case-by-case basis, based on the advice of the Admissions Committee. The voting members of the LSSTC Executive Board must approve membership with a two-thirds affirmative vote. Membership will be immediate upon an affirmative vote.