

Membership Information

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Member Benefits

Find out how being a BTS member can help your professional development and support our goal for better lung health for all.

We offer many benefits of membership:

Thorax

- Our respected and widely disseminated journal, published jointly with the British Medical Journal, is available to members who subscribe in a number of categories online and/or by post.

Excellent delegate discounts

- Enjoy first pick of our highly-rated short course programmes at a discounted rate. Over 500 people from a range of respiratory professions attend our annual short courses.
- Benefit from excellent discounted delegate rates for the BTS Winter Meeting. This showcases "Bench to Bedside" research and related clinical developments and attracts an average of 2,200 delegates each year.
- Receive similar excellent discounted rates for our Summer Meeting, which is our main annual CME event attracting around 600 delegates from a range of respiratory professions each year.

e-Learning

- All members have free access to an innovative and diverse package of BTS e-learning modules. These cover a range of topics relating to Guidelines and procedural instructions and are packed with practical advice, as well as practice questions for the Specialty Certificate Examination (SCE).

Reciprocal membership arrangements

- From July 2015 all BTS members resident in the UK can join ERS (the European Respiratory Society) for £20 per year, saving an average of £150 on the ERS subscription and enjoying a range of benefits from ERS aimed at enhancing education, training and research opportunities.

eBTS News

eBTS News is emailed to all members 3-4 times a month. It contains important updates regarding BTS activities and issues of more general interest.

Get more involved and make a difference

- In any year around 12% of our UK members are actively engaged in BTS activities. We are proud of this and are very grateful to everyone who helps us with our work.
- BTS benefits from a diverse and vibrant membership and aims to reflect this in the ways in which we recruit those who help us achieve our aims.
- Members are encouraged to become involved in our work via an annual call for volunteers to stand for election to BTS Council, or one of our Committees or Specialist Advisory Groups. There are also regular calls for volunteers to participate in our Guideline Groups and other quality improvement activities.

Membership Categories and Eligibility

BTS membership is available to all those working within respiratory medicine. This includes medical practitioners and allied health professionals with an interest in respiratory medicine and anyone who is engaged in work relating to respiratory health and disease or related disciplines. Exceptions include anyone who has worked for the tobacco industry within the last 10 years or whose role is involved with the marketing of e-cigarettes, even as an aid to giving up smoking. BTS also reserves the right to decline an application if it does not believe the applicant meets the eligibility criteria, or if their interests are contrary to those of the Charity.

Pre-Specialist

This is available to medical students, CMT (Core Medical Trainees), and Foundation Year 1 and 2 doctors. Pre-Specialists have access to all member benefits at a heavily discounted rate except for the journal, *Thorax*.

Pre-Specialist membership is restricted for a maximum of 2 years or until the trainee reaches ST3, when their membership transfers to the Concession (with Journal) category.

Concession (with Journal)

This is available to Specialty Trainees (ST3, ST4 and ST5) for either a maximum of three years, or until they reach ST6, when their membership transfers to the Full member category.

This membership is also available to:

- Nurses and other Health Care Professionals (such as physiotherapists, pharmacists, physiologists, speech and language therapists, who wish to receive the journal, *Thorax*.
- Retired consultants who are registered to practice with GMC and carry out sessional work
- Senior STs on OOPE or OOPR (sabbatical, research leave) a maximum 2 years' membership permitted for this member category.

We do not offer a reduced subscription or membership suspension for parental leave.

Full

This is available to:

- Senior Specialty Trainees, ST6, ST7 and above
- Consultants, Specialty Doctors, Academic Fellows/Lecturers
- Overseas (other than those in [Hinari \(List A\)](#) category – refer to Overseas Low Income Countries below)
- Industry professionals, research scientists

Concession (without Journal)

Nurses and other HCPs (such as physiotherapists, pharmacists, physiologists, speech and language therapists, who do not wish to take the journal.

Please note we insist our members who are qualified doctors receive *Thorax* as it provides essential information for respiratory practice.

Overseas Low Income Countries

Any applicant living and working in a country defined by the WHO [Hinari](#) Initiative (list A) as low income.

Retired without Journal

Any existing member who has retired from medical practice completely may apply for their membership to be transferred to the retired member category. Applications are restricted to members who have served at least one year in another category.

Application Guidance Notes

How to join

Join BTS online or download the membership application form and complete and return it along with your payment details by post or scan and return by email to membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk

Members can join at any point in the year. If you opt to add ERS membership to your BTS membership, this fee will be added to your membership renewal.

The Society is grateful to the majority of UK members (90%) who pay their subscriptions by Direct Debit (DD). This keeps our overhead costs as low as possible.

Contacting your local tax office may save you money on your subscriptions as HMRC allows these to be deductible against income tax.

All applications are checked to ensure the details are correct and the applicant has been assigned to the correct membership category and charged the appropriate subscription. The applicant will be advised when changes are made to their membership application.

What to expect when you join

You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application and this will be followed by your welcome letter, or, if we have questions, we will email you to seek clarification. We will send you information about how to access member benefits including; the BTS e-learning modules and My BTS. Details of the forthcoming annual Meetings and short courses, including member rates, are available on the website.

ERS membership

If you add ERS membership to your BTS membership either when you join BTS, or, at a later date, you will receive an acknowledgement from us by email. ERS will activate your membership and send you an email within one month of receipt of your application.

For ERS membership and website access queries please contact enquiry@ersnet.org or members@ersnet.org

Terms and conditions of membership

The Tobacco industry and exclusion from membership

Please note that 3 resolutions relating to membership and the **Tobacco industry** are contained in the Society's constitution. Full details can be found at www.brit-thoracic.org.uk in the section "About BTS" via a link from the front page.

Please note: *Membership of the Society is not open to persons who are or have been full, or part-time employees of, or paid consultants to, or received payment for service and/or sponsorship in any form, including research funding or benefits in kind from the tobacco industry, at any time during the ten years prior to their application for membership.*

If evidence is brought to their attention about any such relationship developing or if evidence comes to light after a member has joined, the Society's Trustees reserve the right to remove the individual's membership without further notice. This will be done by means of a simple majority vote by members of the Executive Committee.

Data protection

The Society takes data protection very seriously. We will respect your preferences, which you can update online at any time via My BTS. You can also unsubscribe from BTS emails at any time by using the unsubscribe option at the bottom of our emails.

If you opt for the special UK resident BTS member rate for European Respiratory Society (ERS) membership, we will forward your title, name, job title, gender and email address to ERS. ERS will contact you directly to give you access to their member benefits and to collect further information from you.

Fees payable – joiners

All applicants are required to pay the appropriate annual subscription. The renewal date for your membership is the anniversary of the first day of the month following the one in which you joined. For

example if you joined on 14th May your membership would be due for renewal on 1st June of the following year. You will be invited to renew your membership subscription on an annual basis. The ERS membership year starts from 1 July and ends on 30 June of the following year. If you join BTS and ERS at the same time, or, add ERS membership to your existing BTS membership, your ERS membership subscription covers the period until 30 June 2019.

All applications are checked to ensure the details are correct and the applicant has been assigned to the correct member category and subscription rate. BTS will amend the details where these are found to be incorrect and advise the applicant accordingly.

Payment and payment method

Applicants paying by Direct Debit will not be issued with a membership receipt until payment has been collected. If paying by credit/debit card your application will not be processed until full payment is received. All fees are payable to the society in Pounds Sterling.

Membership Renewals

Members are required to renew their membership each year. If payment has not been received within 30 days of the renewal date, the membership will lapse, and access to member benefits will be stopped. If a member then decides to re-join BTS, they will be charged the 12 month rate and their membership subscription will become renewable on the anniversary of the date they re-joined (see Fees payable – joiners). If ERS membership is added to the application the ERS subscription will cover the period until 30 June 2019.

BTS will update your member category and subscription in accordance with the entry criteria and information held against your membership record. It is the responsibility of members to check the details shown both on their renewal notice and online, and to keep us informed of any changes to their membership. This includes professional details such as job title and training status level, as well as contact details.

If you wish to make any changes to your membership and subscription please contact us a minimum of four weeks before the renewal date to allow sufficient time for us to make amendments before the start of the new subscription year - particularly in respect of payments collected by Direct Debit).

If you wish to change your member category or if you have queries concerning your membership, please contact membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk

Joining and member rates for the annual conferences and short courses

To take advantage of the members' delegate rates you must be a member at the time of booking the event. This means if joining and booking on the same day, you must first apply for membership before booking the event.

Join by 1 April to qualify for the members' rate at the Summer Meeting, and by 1 October to qualify for the members' rate at the Winter Meeting.

The Society is keen to recruit members who wish to make a difference to respiratory care and not only to receive discounted members' benefits.

Cancellations and Refund policy

Membership is on an annual basis and **no refunds** will be given to members who resign during the year. If you wish to cancel either your BTS or ERS membership you must inform us in writing by either email at membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk or letter.

- **New applications for BTS and/or ERS membership**

You may cancel your application within 7 working days of receipt of our confirmation and receive a full refund of fees paid. You must make any such request in writing by email to membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk. A refund of the fees paid by you which relate to the cancellation will be sent to you within 30 days of the receipt of your notice of cancellation, and minus a £25 administrative fee.

If you cancel your membership after 7 days, you will not receive a refund.

If you feel there are extenuating reasons and would like us to reconsider, please email membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk. A pro-rata fee to cover the subscription period from the joining or renewal date, to the date we received the written cancellation, and an administrative fee of £25, will be deducted from the refund.

- **Cancelling BTS with ERS membership**

If you either cancel or do not renew your BTS membership, and you have paid the special BTS member rate for ERS membership, this will also be cancelled and access to benefits stopped. Refer to the section headed, '[Membership Renewals](#)' on page five of this document for more information.

- **Cancellations and Event Bookings**

If you either cancel or do not renew your membership between booking a place at a BTS event such as the Summer or Winter Meetings, or a short course, and attending the event; and you paid the member rate, you will be asked to pay the balance of payment (the difference between the member and non-member rate). We cannot guarantee your place at the event until full payment has been received.