



Below you will find some of the most frequently asked questions about membership applications, fees, and payments.

### **How do I join?**

If you are new to BTS go to the joining page and select 'Join BTS Now' and follow the instructions.

If you have previously registered to use the website and/or, have been a member in the past, login with your usual email address and password and select 'Join BTS' from the list of options in 'My BTS'.

Once you have completed the online form and arranged payment method, you will receive an automated email acknowledging receipt of your application.

### **How much does it cost to become a member of the Society?**

Details can be found on the joining page of the website. Please note that you will pay a pro rata rate if joining after July. Membership is annual and renewable each year on 1 July.

If you join in either May or June, your subscription will cover the period until 30 June of the following year for which you will pay a one-year subscription fee.

### **How to join a BTS committee, a specialist advisory group (SAGs) or other BTS working group?**

Each year through eBTS news, usually sent in June or July, members are invited to apply for vacancies on the core Committees and SAGs. Details on how to apply and submission deadline dates are given in the newsletter email.

All positions are open to BTS members, and some groups will call for specific eligibility criteria. Calls for members of other working groups (for Guidelines, Clinical Statements, and other projects) will be made during the year and will always be advertised in e-BTS news and on the BTS website.

### **What payment methods are available for paying my subscription?**

We accept payment by credit card, debit card, and direct debit.

Payment by direct debit offers a discount on the standard rate for membership subscriptions.



## **I need a receipt for my membership subscription.**

You can download a receipt for your current and past subscriptions from the BTS website. Log in and select 'My Membership' from the list of options in 'My BTS'.

## **Can I claim income tax relief on my fees?**

Membership subscriptions are tax deductible. Income tax relief was approved in 2004 by the Board of the Inland Revenue, as it was called at the time, under Section 344 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003, with effect from 6 April 2004.

## **How do I renew my membership?**

Renewal notices are sent by email with at least four weeks' notice prior to the renewal date, which is 1st July each year.

The notice gives your membership category and the amount of the annual subscription. If you pay by direct debit the date the payment is to be collected is also shown. If you pay by credit/debit card, advice will be given on how to pay your subscription online.

## **How do I cancel my membership?**

If you wish to cancel your membership, please send an email to [membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk](mailto:membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk) or a letter to BTS. If you pay by direct debit, please contact your bank to cancel this with them to be doubly sure.

## **What is the Society's refund policy?**

Membership is on an annual basis and no refunds will be given to members who resign during the year. If you want us to reconsider, please write to [membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk](mailto:membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk) letting us know why you believe there are extenuating circumstances.

## **What will happen if I don't pay to renew, or fail to cancel my membership by the renewal date?**

Members have 30 days from the renewal date to pay their subscription. If it is not received within this time frame, your membership will lapse and access to member benefits will be cancelled.

If you have added ERS membership to your BTS membership, this will also be cancelled.



### **What if my membership has lapsed and I want to renew my membership?**

You can re-join from the 'My BTS' page of the BTS website. Log in with your usual email address and password and select 'Join BTS' from the list of options in 'My BTS'.

### **What do I need to do to add ERS membership to my BTS membership?**

Discounted ERS membership is available to BTS members living in the United Kingdom. Log in to the BTS website and select 'Join ERS' from the list of options in 'My BTS'.

The ERS fee is the same throughout the BTS subscription year, irrespective of when you join, and covers the period from when you join until 30 June. If you join in either May or June, your subscription will cover the period until 30 June of the following year for which you will pay a one-year subscription fee only.

ERS membership will be included in your BTS renewal each year on the 1st of July unless you contact us to cancel your ERS or BTS membership.

### **How long will it take for my ERS membership to be activated?**

You should receive access to the ERS benefits within one month of submitting your application via the BTS website. If you have any questions about any aspect of your ERS membership (including your login to the ERS website, Congress delegate fees etc) please contact ERS directly via [enquiry@ersnet.org](mailto:enquiry@ersnet.org)

### **I want to subscribe to a category which includes Thorax. How do I do this?**

Email [membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk](mailto:membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk) with your request. You can upgrade your membership by paying a pro-rata fee for the difference between your current and the new subscription rate. You will be asked to renew at the new member rate.



## How do I get online access to Thorax?

- If you are in a BTS membership category which subscribes to Thorax, login to the BTS website and from the list of options available in 'My BTS' select the blue Thorax icon.
- From the 'Table of Contents' scroll down to find the topic, and article you wish to read.
- Double click on the link (the title of the paper) to open. You will now be able to see the Abstract.
- Scroll down the page to read the full text.
- To download, click on the PDF symbol shown on the top right-hand corner of the page.

## I wish to stop receiving Thorax by post but continue to have online access. Is this possible?

Email [membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk](mailto:membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk) with this request. You can opt back in at any time by sending a request to receive the paper copy again. Please note online access only does not offer any reduction to the BTS membership subscription. BTS must pay the same amount per journal subscription to BMJ irrespective of whether the member receives a

paper copy or has opted for online only access.

## I am going on maternity/ paternity leave. Does BTS offer a reduced subscription for this?

If you will be off work for three months or longer, email [membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk](mailto:membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk) with a letter from your place of work confirming your leave dates.

We offer a 50% discount on one year's subscription. Further applications can be made for subsequent births/pregnancies/adoptions.

## I will be retiring soon. Does BTS offer a special rate for retired members?

If you have retired completely from medical practice, you can transfer your membership to the Retired membership category, providing you have served a minimum of one year in another category immediately preceding your request. This is free of charge, but you will have to have to pay a small sum to attend BTS Winter and Summer Meetings.



**I am on extended sick leave.  
Does BTS offer a reduced  
subscription for this?**

If you are unable to work due to illness for a minimum of 3 or more months, email [membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk](mailto:membership@brit-thoracic.org.uk) to let us know.

We offer a 50% discount on one year's subscription. If the leave lasts longer than one subscription year, applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

You will need a letter from your place of work confirming your time off work.