



## ISHLTF Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### **Who is eligible to apply for the ISHLTF designation?**

Only physician and non-physician members of ISHLT who have maintained continuous membership for five years or more are eligible to apply. This opportunity is not open to Trainee or Retired membership status (or those with Emeritus standing). Current members of the [ISHLT Membership Committee](#), [ISHLT Membership & Outreach Oversight Committee](#), and [ISHLT Board of Directors](#) are also not eligible (and they cannot write letters of recommendation for candidates).

Core qualifications for applicants include:

- Be ISHLT members for at least 5 years.
- Remain members after receiving the designation.
- Be actively engaged in clinical care or research.
- Have no violations of ISHLT's ethical standards.

### **What does being *actively engaged in clinical care or research* mean?**

Being actively engaged in clinical care or research means you must be a current physician or non-physician member practicing independently (not in training). This opportunity is not open to Trainee or Retired membership status (or those with Emeritus standing).

### **What does the ISHLTF designation represent?**

ISHLTF is an honorary post-nominal designation recognizing exceptional commitment to the field of advanced heart and lung disease, transplantation, and service to ISHLT. ISHLTF allows ISHLT members to be recognized among their peers and colleagues for their exemplary dedication.

### **What is the structure of the application point system?**

The application uses a point-based system across four categories: Core Qualifications, Member Engagement, Service to ISHLT, and Commitment to the Field.

Minimum thresholds must be met in each category. The point-based system is designed to provide clarity, flexibility, and accessibility for ISHLT members across different professional backgrounds and geographic regions.

A PDF with [full information about the points system](#) is available.

### **Can I nominate another member for this designation?**

This is a self-nomination process; it is not permitted to submit the application on behalf of another member.



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## How many letters of recommendation need to be submitted and who should write them?

Two letters must be submitted:

- One from an **ISHLT leader who has been [elected or appointed](#) to a volunteer position, a [current Fellow](#) supporting the applicant’s commitment to ISHLT, or a mentor or department supervisor.**
- One from any [ISHLT member](#) in good standing.

Letters of recommendation cannot be written by current members of the [ISHLT Membership Committee](#), [ISHLT Membership Outreach Oversight](#), or the [ISHLT Board of Directors](#). They must be written within the application period and submitted with your application materials.

Within the application, you will specify which type of letter you are submitting. We recommend you upload your letters with the following naming convention: “Letter Writer Last Name\_First Name\_Document Type”.

## What information should be included in the letters of recommendation?

Letters of recommendation should detail accomplishments relevant to the ISHLT criteria, impact of your contributions to the organization and/or profession, and rationale for why you should receive the ISHLTF. They must be written within the application period and submitted with your application materials.

## Will the system allow me to upload more documentation to support my candidacy?

Only the following can be submitted:

- Two letters of recommendation
- A CV, Resume, and/or publications bibliography

If, for example, you have a Resume and Publications Bibliography, they will need to be combined in the same document and uploaded into the system.

## Is there a fee to apply?

Yes, there is a one-time non-refundable fee to apply, with a sliding scale based on professional role and geographic region. For example, physicians in high-income economies pay \$195 USD, while non-physicians in low-income economies pay \$10 USD. The fee supports the ISHLT Foundation.

## What is the application and notification timeline?

The 2026-2027 application period will **open 13 July 2026 and close 16 September 2026**.



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## **Will I be able to save my application and revisit at another time to make modifications before submitting?**

ISHLT recommends that candidates complete the application in one sitting. You may access the [full application criteria](#) here before visiting the online application.

## **Can I make changes after I submit?**

Changes cannot be made after the application is submitted.

## **What is the selection and notification process?**

Once submitted, ISHLT staff confirm that the application is complete. The ISHLT Membership Committee reviews the letters of recommendation and makes final determinations on awarding the designation of Fellow of ISHLT (ISHLTF). Then, the ISHLT Membership & Outreach Oversight Committee and Board of Directors confirm approval of ISHLTF. Your application will be marked as “pending” in your ISHLT member profile until you are notified of your status around February.

## **What is the difference between a Fellow of ISHLT (ISHLTF) and a Fellow in training?**

A Fellow of ISHLT (ISHLTF) is a member of ISHLT who has been awarded with a special honorary post-nominal designation. A Fellow in training is an individual who is part of a fellowship program or funding opportunity that supports individuals in pursuing research, clinical training, or professional development.

## **Do I have to be a Fellow of ISHLT (ISHLTF) to be considered for future leadership opportunities?**

Being a Fellow of ISHLT (ISHLTF) is not a prerequisite for leadership roles. Enhanced consideration when nominated or appointed to serve as a volunteer leader may be given.

## **Who do I reach out to for questions?**

For additional questions about the ISHLTF program or application process, please send an email to [membership@ishlt.org](mailto:membership@ishlt.org).