

# Tobias School of Art & Therapy

## Membership Policy

Revised 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016

To to be approved by the Trustees at 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

### Introduction

Tobias Trust recognises the benefits that a supportive and knowledgeable membership can bring to the charity through its members. According to the Charity Commission 'when members are active in shaping the agenda and objectives of their charity the trustee body is refreshed and its accountability to its members is improved'(Charity Commission RS7 document). An active membership body can act as a forum for the important and fruitful exchange of new ideas, industry best practice and professional training issues.

In order for this to be encouraged and supported the Trust believes that the membership scheme helps to foster this aim.

### 1 Membership Criteria

1.1 Only individuals are accepted as members, i.e. corporate membership is not accepted.

1.2 Generally membership to be limited to current and past Trustees, Faculty staff, current students and graduates of Tobias and visiting tutors. Other individuals may, at the absolute discretion of Tobias Trust, be accepted.

1.3 Tobias Trustees and Faculty staff are automatically enrolled as members.

1.4 Current students are automatically enrolled as members provided they continue to attend either the full time Transpersonal Arts course, Transpersonal Arts in Therapy training or the Modular Transpersonal Arts in Therapy training. Once graduated membership includes lifetime free membership. Any student/graduate may opt-out of their membership by writing to this effect to the Trust.

1.5 All registered members are eligible for a 10% fee reduction of CPD/Summer Courses/Weekend Workshops taking place at Tobias. In addition, external art material shop discounts are currently being negotiated/investigated. A full list of member's benefits to be published in due course. Tobias Trust reserves the right to vary, amend or withdraw these benefits at its sole discretion.

1.6 Membership renewal will be automatic unless the Trust is otherwise informed that the member wishes to terminate their membership. An up to date list of current members to be kept in the Tobias office and available for inspection.

1.7 Honorary members may be appointed at the sole discretion of Tobias Trust.

1.8 Membership, however, is not an automatic entitlement; and any decision regarding the acceptance of a member ultimately lies with the Trust. Decisions are made on the basis of what is in the best interest of the Trust.

1.9 The Trust can at its sole discretion refuse or terminate the membership of any individual at any time, including without limitation:

1.9.1 if any applicant or member provides inaccurate or false information;

1.9.2 if any member breaches any of the terms of membership;

1.9.3 if any member is convicted of a criminal offence; or

1.9.4 if any member behaves, in the opinion of the Trust, in any manner which is detrimental to the reputation or image of the Trust.

1.10 If the Trust has received no contact with a member for three years despite our communications and requests for information then the Trust reserved the right to remove that person from the membership. If, however, at a later date contact is re-established then the member can re-join.

## **2 Membership Responsibilities**

2.1 We trust Members will wish to keep in touch, provide updates on contact details and to provide occasional updates/synopses of their professional work/research.

2.2 Members are expected to maintain and uphold the good name and be an ambassador of the Trust and Tobias School of Art & Therapy.

2.3 Members are requested to involve themselves in Trust business and abide by the management decisions made by Faculty and Trust.

2.4 Members are eligible to vote at the AGM.

2.5 **Please note:** the Tobias Trust Memorandum and Articles require that all members are liable for a maximum of £10.00 (ten pounds) in the unlikely circumstance that the Trust is wound up with debts still outstanding.

## **3 Membership Procedures**

3.1 Quorum criteria for AGM meetings to be either ten members or 10% of eligible members, whichever is the greater.

3.2 This policy to be given to each member on joining the Trust.

## **4 Resolving Disputes**

4.1 It is hoped that in the event of a dispute or disagreement arising it can be resolved informally with the Trustees. If however after this route has been exhausted, without resolution, then the dispute should go to an appropriate mediation procedure depending on the nature of the dispute.