



British Naturalists' Association

The National Body For Naturalists

Membership Grade Notes

The British Naturalists' Association, founded in 1905, is the national body for naturalists promoting the study of natural history in Britain. The Association encourages members to share their knowledge and, through its grading scheme, recognises the gaining of relevant skills and expertise.

Ordinary members whose skills and expertise meet the required criteria may apply to become a **Registered Associate, Registered Member** or **Fellow** of the BNA.

A successful registration will entitle the member to use the appropriate post nominative initials and the entitlements detailed below.

- **HonFBNA Fellow of The British Naturalists' Association (*Honoris Causa*).**
- **FBNA Fellow of The British Naturalists' Association.**
- **MBNA Registered Member of The British Naturalists' Association.**
- **ABNA Associate Member of The British Naturalists' Association.**

Honoris Causa Hon FBNA

To promote due recognition of excellence in natural history, the Fellowship (*Honoris Causa*) is bestowed upon a naturalists of outstanding calibre. It is presented infrequently to eminent naturalists who meet this same standard of criteria and is strictly limited to a small number. The formation of this Fellowship is in accordance with the aims of the Association to promote the study of natural history.

Recipients of the BNA's highest award, the Peter Scott Memorial Award are granted Honorary Fellowship (*Honoris Causa*)

Hon FBNA robes are a master's gown of dark green edged with pale green and gold, the hood is dark green with gold edging. The headwear is a black cloth bonnet with gold tassel.

The Peter Scott Memorial Award is awarded to a naturalist who has made an outstanding international contribution to our understanding of natural history.

Fellow of the British Naturalists' Association FBNA

The holding of academic standing (doctorate, and/or degree in relevant subjects) and relevant publications showing significant appropriate involvement for this level of membership, plus evidence of significant field experience, can lead to Fellowship being conferred by the Association.

Very significant contributions in the practise of natural history in field work and publication can also lead to recognition as a Fellow.

A member of the Association recognised for their expertise and standing in natural history by the conferring of the David Bellamy Award is entitled to become a Fellow.



Fellow – FBNA

Fellow of The British Naturalists' Association are entitled to use the post nominative letters **FBNA**.

The Fellowship robes are a master's black gown, and a simple hood in the colours of the Fellowship, with silver edging to the hood. The headwear shall be a black cloth bonnet with dark green tassel.

These entitlements are retained for as long as their name remains on the Register of Registered Fellows.

The David Bellamy Award is an annual award given to a field naturalist of distinction, and is automatically entitled to become FBNA.

Registered Member of The British Naturalists' Association MBNA

Those naturalists that have established an expertise in the practise and understanding of natural history, and have become skilled and experienced in identification and other field skills, may be considered for full Membership recognition.

Becoming a Registered Member carries with it the status of being a proven field naturalist; it is an acknowledgement of gaining a high standard of competence in natural history.

Demonstrating active participation in natural history, including being a member for 10 years of the BNA, a field club or similar organisation, with evidence of continuing field work and an appropriate level of skill and expertise can bring recognition as a full Member.

Alternatively, full membership can be gained after two years membership of BNA, a field club or similar organisation, with evidence of continuing field work and an appropriate level of skill and expertise plus either:

- the publication of at least 2 natural history papers or 10 natural history articles
- led at least 10 field walks for BNA or field clubs
- gained 20 credits by attending BNA specialist topic workshops
- had a natural history book published
- obtained a degree in relevant natural sciences
- substantial experience of presenting natural history in the media
- some other comparable and acceptable evidence of a good standard of competence as a natural historian



Registered Member – MBNA

Registered Member of the British Naturalists' Association are entitled to use the post nominative letters **MBNA**.

The Membership robes, are a bachelor's black gown with a simple hood of dark green and pale green lining. Headwear is a simple mortar square.

These entitlements are retained for as long as their name remains on the Register of Registered Members.

The Richard Fitter Memorial Medal is awarded annually to an MBNA who is a dedicated, active field naturalist.

Associate Member of The British Naturalists' Association ABNA

This is the membership grade of those over 18 years of age that have a keen interest in natural history which they demonstrate by joining and supporting the Association.

Ordinary Members can apply for recognition as an Associate and to use the post nominative letters **ABNA** after they have been an Ordinary Member for one year and can show evidence that they have attended natural history lectures and taken part in field work to gain 5 credits. [Existing BNA Members as of 31st December 2006 have an automatic entitlement to apply for recognition as an Associates without need of further evidence].

Associate Members are entitled to wear the Associate's robes, of an appropriate black gown.

Grade Registration Board

Application forms are available from the following address:

The Grade Registration Board,
BNA, 27 Old Gloucester Street,
London, WC1N 3AX

or from the BNA website, www.bna-naturalists.org

Registration Fees

A registration fee is payable to cover processing costs as follows:

ABNA £5.00

MBNA £7.00

FBNA £12.00

Annual Membership Rates

Ordinary Member £20.00 (£15.00 Senior Citizen)

Associate Member £20.00 (£15.00 Senior Citizen)

Registered Member £25.00 (£20.00 Senior Citizen)

Fellow £30.00 (£25.00 Senior Citizen)