

The Organisation

The Academy of Experts (formerly the British Academy of Experts) was founded in 1987 with the objective of providing, for the first time, a professional body for experts to establish and promote high objective standards.

Since its establishment The Academy (TAE) has become an international centre of excellence for experts with a substantial multi-disciplinary membership. It acts as both an accrediting and a professional body.

As well as acting as a representative voice for experts The Academy publishes guidance of a technical nature on a number of issues for experts in both Civil and Criminal cases. For example, The Academy's 'Model Form of Report' and 'Guidelines for Forensic Scientists' are widely used by both members of The Academy and other experts and recognised by the legal profession.

The promotion of 'cost efficient dispute resolution' is extremely important to The Academy. This has led to the establishment of the Faculty of Mediation & ADR. The Academy is now a leading proponent of the development of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the UK working with the Civil Mediation Council of which it is a member.

The Academy works strongly to liaise with other institutions in both the UK and internationally. In particular it was instrumental in the foundation of EuroExpert, the European Union Organisation for Expert Associations which was formed in 1998. The Academy of Experts now represents the UK and has held the presidency of EuroExpert.

Accreditation of Expert Witnesses

All applicants to The Academy who wish to become Accredited Practising Expert Witnesses undergo a rigorous vetting procedure to ensure standards of excellence are maintained. This leads to the officially recognised full accreditation as a Practising Expert. Those achieving it are awarded the designatory letters MAE.

Ethical and professional standards are governed by Codes of Practice and enforced by disciplinary procedures.

Commercial Mediation

The Academy is also a training and accreditation body for ADR Neutrals, including Mediators, Conciliators and Expert Determiners. It publishes and maintains the Register of Qualified Dispute Resolvers and awards the designatory letters QDR to those on the register.

Standards are enforced in the same way as for experts.

Working with the Judiciary

The Academy has a Judicial Committee which is chaired by a Law Lord, and consists of Lords Justice of Appeal and other Senior Judges from the UK and other jurisdictions. The committee was responsible for:

- The Model Form of Expert's Report (commended by Rt Hon Lord Woolf)
- Guidance Notes on The Meetings of Experts
- Guidance Notes on Contingency Fees

Application for Membership

An application for membership (by a suitably qualified individual) as a practising expert is judged on the basis of an applicant's experience as an Expert Witness. The Academy recognises that the skills of an expert are separate from those required by an applicant's primary profession and awards different grades of membership:

- Associate Membership is for those starting out their Expert Witness careers.
- Full Membership is awarded to experienced Expert Witnesses who show an appropriate level of skill and understanding of the work of an expert.
- Fellows are those experts who demonstrate an exceptional level of skill and experience as an Expert Witness and must be Full Members of at least two years standing. There are currently fewer than 60 Fellows.

For details of how to apply or for further information see overleaf.

Training & Development

The Academy offers a comprehensive range of training programmes to enable members and non-members to develop their expert skills, and undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Courses range from the basic role and responsibilities of the Expert Witness through to the requirements of appropriate legislation (eg the CPR) and the giving of evidence in the witness box.

Range of Services

To Members:

The Academy of Experts provides a full range of services to its members including:

- Helpline
- Technical meetings and training
- Regular magazine and newsletter
- Detailed handbook for practical guidance
- On-line information resources
- Experts fee survey
- London based business centre & meeting rooms
- Social functions

To the Legal Profession:

The Academy of Experts provides a number of services which assist both Academy members and the legal profession:

- **On-line Registers**
Searchable database of Experts and Mediators
- **ExpertSearch**
Finding the right accredited expert
- **SJE Select**
Finding the right Single Joint Expert
- **Mediator Appointment Service**
Finding the right accredited mediator
- **Membership**
A class of membership is open to the legal profession to enable input and involvement with the work and development of The Academy

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Benefits of Membership

- **Internationally recognised professional status and credibility:**
AMAE • MAE • FAE • QDR
- **Access to information resources:**
Journal • Newsletter • Website • Helpline
- **Continuing Professional Development**
- **Membership of group Professional Indemnity insurance scheme**

Further Information

For further information about membership, the training programme or The Academy's activities:

Telephone

020 7430 0333

Email

admin@academy-experts.org

Web

www.academy-experts.org

Download

www.academy-experts.org/memapp.htm



The Academy of Experts

**Experts serving the
Legal Community**

020 7430 0333
www.academy-experts.org