

# Membership Q&A

- [What are the criteria to become an OSC Industry member?](#)

All private sector, for-profit organizations incorporated in Canada are eligible to become Industry members of the OSC.

Additionally, First Nations are also eligible to pursue Industry membership.

- [What are the criteria to become an OSC Associate member?](#)

All incorporated organizations and sole proprietors are eligible for OSC Associate membership. This includes non-profit, academic and government organizations. Additionally, international organizations, including private sector, that are not incorporated in Canada are eligible for Associate membership.

- [What is the difference between Associate and Industry membership?](#)

In principle, Industry membership is meant for private sector businesses located in Canada. Industry Members are pre-vetted and eligible to apply for OSC funding through our Technology Leadership program.

Associate Membership is meant for non-private sector organizations and those who are businesses that are not incorporated in Canada. In principle, these organizations are not eligible to pursue Technology Leadership funding.

- [I am the sole proprietor and not an incorporated business. Can I still become an OSC member?](#)

Yes, as a sole proprietor, you can become an Associate Member.

- [Is OSC membership free of charge?](#)

Yes, the OSC membership is free of charge. The OSC will only ask for Cluster Building Contribution from our Investing Industry Members – organizations who are receiving funding from the OSC.

- [What are Cluster Building Contributions?](#)

Cluster Building Contributions are financial contributions made by organizations that are receiving funding from the OSC. Cluster Building Contributions are deducted from the OSC matched funding on a quarterly basis and support the implementation of non-commercial projects within priority areas of the OSC that help address key challenges of the ocean economy in Canada, such as access to talent, Indigenous engagement, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and promoting Canada internationally. You can read more about these initiatives [here](#).

The rate of Cluster Building Contributions is xx% for call for proposals and xx% for core funding.

- [My business is registered outside of Canada. Can I still become an OSC member?](#)

Yes, If your organization is not incorporated in Canada, you can become an Associate Member. If your business is incorporated in Canada but has its headquarters elsewhere you are still eligible for Industry membership.

- [My business is incorporated in Canada, but headquarters are outside. Can I still become an OSC member?](#)

Yes, you are eligible for Industry membership and can take full advantage of the OSC funding and networks.

- [How can OSC membership help my business succeed?](#)

The OSC will help you expand your network by strategically connecting you with 550+ other members. It will enable new business development opportunities and help you find future strategic partners. The OSC membership gets you access to curated events and communication that can help promote your business.

- [What are the benefits of OSC membership?](#)

There are many benefits of membership with the OSC. Some of them include:

- ✓ Access to the network of over 550 organizations building the ocean economy in Canada. You can find partners, collaborators and clients in our growing network
- ✓ Invitations to curated events throughout the year that include business matchmaking events, roundtables dedicated to specific topics, all member events, webinars and more.
- ✓ Access to invite-only Member Portal where you can find and directly contact other members of the OSC
- ✓ Possibility to submit your marketing materials to the OSC and have them featured across the OSC communication platforms that include the social media, newsletter, physical booths at trade shows and more
- ✓ Access to information about available funding

- [Who are the OSC's members?](#)

OSC members are organizations working directly or indirectly in the ocean economy. We have members across all provinces and most territories in Canada, who span all ocean-related industries. Our members include international organizations from the United States, the UK, France, Norway, India and more. OSC members include Indigenous organizations, First Nations, academic organizations, government from all levels, non-profits and of course private sector organizations.

- [Where can I find more information about the available funding?](#)

More information about available funding can be found [here](#).

- [Is the OSC a government department?](#)

No, the OSC is an independent member-led, industry-driven non-profit organization that is changing the way ocean business is done. The OSC receives most of its funding from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

- [How long is my membership valid for?](#)

Your membership does not have an end term and doesn't have to be renewed.

- [Do I need to be a member to apply for the OSC funding?](#)

Becoming an OSC member is not a requirement to submit the Expression of Interest, which is the first step to apply for the OSC funding. Once you are invited to submit the full proposal, we request the lead applicant to become an OSC member prior to the deadline of submitting the full proposal.

However, we do recommend becoming an OSC as soon as possible, as it comes with additional benefits described in more detail [here](#).

- [How does the OSC funding work?](#)

The OSC funding mechanism is described in detail [here](#).

- [I need to stay up to date on news and activities within the OSC, where do I find the information?](#)

There are several ways of staying up to date with the news:

- Sign up for the OSC newsletter and receive communication from us on a regular basis
- Follow the OSC on social media: LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, TikTok
- Become a member and receive curated, member-only communication
- Visit our website frequently

- [As an Investing Member, where does the % commitment from my investment go?](#)

The Cluster Building Commitment is explained [here](#).

- [How do I join Canada's Ocean Supercluster as a member?](#)

In order to join as a member, fill out the [Member Signup Form](#) available [here](#). When we receive your application, you will receive a welcome message with details and the first steps on your member journey.

- [As an Associate member, how can I participate in Technology Leadership projects?](#)

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- [How is the Board of Directors elected?](#)

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