



Greetings from International Houses Worldwide Inc. (*IHWW Inc.*). I am writing to you as the President of *International Houses Worldwide Inc.*, the association tasked with enhancing relationships and communication between selected International Houses around the globe. At this writing, our membership includes fifteen International Houses in five countries. These member I-Houses share certain distinguishing characteristics which together demonstrate that our primary mission is to promote better global friendship, understanding and citizenship within a unique, engaged and interactive international student community that is distinct from that usually experienced in a typical university residential facility.

As requested, I am providing you with information about *IHWW Inc.* as a way of introducing our organization to you and beginning a discussion of your potential interest in becoming a member.

Each member institution of *IHWW Inc.* is an independent entity with its own self-governing Board, legal status and fundraising structure. Some are freestanding; others are owned by or affiliated with a university. While our institutions are separate, distinct and unique, we share similar missions and values. Given this commonality of purpose and the structure that is in place to jointly promote and sustain our mission, there is much to be gained from membership in *IHWW Inc.* For example, the Directors of the member Houses attend a conference every 12 months to share ideas, planning and camaraderie.

These conferences provide opportunities to engage in robust, fruitful discussions and analysis of the challenges facing our institutions, and to share invaluable information about programming, Board governance, information technology, fundraising, alumni and other critical topics. Additionally, *IHWW Inc.* provides access to networking, benchmarking, listservs and support for Directors and other levels of staff. We continue to develop common marketing materials (e.g. logo, brochures, and posters) that are available for all members to use. In another effort to cross promote our institutions, member websites include links to other members' websites. The *IHWW Inc.* website is www.ihouseworldwide.org

The benefits of participation in *IHWW Inc.* extend beyond the institutional level to our resident members. In recent years, between twenty and twenty-four *IHWW Inc.* residents

annually have been awarded grants (US\$10,000 each) from *Davis Projects for Peace*, an initiative of an International House New York alumna, to design and execute grassroots projects promoting peace. These projects have been carried out around the globe and provide the grantees with stimulating, rewarding opportunities to define and further the cause of peace in our world. Other activities include a member discount for alumni seeking temporary accommodation at another I-House, and we actively seek additional ways to create a common community identity for residents of all of our Houses.

With 100 years of history in multiple countries, *International Houses Worldwide Inc.* is a natural leader in the growing international education movement to promote multicultural living and global leadership, and the position of each House within this movement is enhanced by our shared identity. We would be pleased to further discuss the organization and the benefits of membership with you. A description of the **Membership Application** process is enclosed for your reference.

On behalf of my colleagues in *International Houses Worldwide Inc.*, we send our compliments and best wishes to you and all the members of your community. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Doug Weir
President (2022-23) International House Worldwide

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Enclosures:

Application Guidelines for Acceptance into IHWW Inc
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Application Process and Guidelines for Acceptance into International House Worldwide Inc.

Introduction

The Rockefeller Foundation originally established five International Houses in the early 1900s. There are currently seventeen International Houses on three continents that have formed an association to further the original International House mission of cross cultural understanding amongst people of all nations through the support of residents as they pursue higher education and research opportunities. These programs exist within the context of safe, clean and affordable housing for all students and scholars. All International Houses enhance, encourage and promote purposeful interactions between their residents that allow them to better understand our increasingly interconnected world and to make lasting and meaningful friendships with others from around the world.

No two existing member I-Houses are quite alike physically, administratively or operationally. However, all members share the core principles of diversity, acceptance, academic focus and a cross-cultural component that allows host country students to share a living learning experience with students from around the world.

Diversity is a key component of the International House movement. This is based upon cultural, social, academic, gender, religious and racial components, all of which have value within the mission of each International House. Acceptance of others and a willingness to learn from and share experiences with others is a distinguishing feature that all member I-Houses provide for their resident members.

Application Process

Application can be made for acceptance into International Houses Worldwide (IHHW) by any qualified non-profit or university housing program. Applications will be reviewed by the Membership Committee and a recommendation made from this body to the Executive Directors of the IHHW Board of Directors for conclusion at the Business Meeting of each conference. Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

Applicants will be informed in writing of their application status prior to the next conference. Approved applicants will be invited to the IHHW conference where they will make a formal presentation of their application. The applicant will then answer questions by the full membership.

Membership Guidelines

Guidelines detailing the general requirements of membership are provided on a separate document. It is possible for membership into IHHW to be granted to an I-House that does not meet all of the guidelines if the directors determine that the applicant has demonstrated sufficient intent and momentum to meet the vast majority of the requirements. We have found that given the unique histories and characteristics of each I-House, not all of the guidelines may necessarily apply to each applicant. Acceptance into International Houses Worldwide will be based upon the totality of the presentation and if it is determined that the mission, goals and application of the applicant sufficiently

affects the daily lives of the applicant's residents is appropriate for inclusion in the organization.

Application Process:

As part of the application process, a letter of introduction from the Chief Executive Officer who is directly responsible for the daily operation of the applicant's International House must be included and specifically address the following points listed below:

- A request for membership to International Houses Worldwide
- A statement of commitment to participate in the scheduled conferences
- A willingness to accept and participate in the governance of the organization
- The ability to pay the annual dues assessed by the organization.

Additional supporting documentation may be submitted to substantiate or emphasize specific points within the application. The use of brochures, publications and annual reports is appropriate in providing a representational view of the full range and scope of activities and programs within your organization.

The application must also include a letter of support from either the Chairperson of the International House governing board or the President of your university, or both, if appropriate.

The applicant must be committed to sending their chief executive officer to the directors' conference to make a formal presentation at the immediate conference after submission of the application. Notification of preliminary acceptance will be provided at least two months prior to the conference to allow for adequate travel planning. The applicant will attend the conference with full access and privileges short of voting at the IHWW Business Meeting.

The application must provide detailed information of the following:

- a. Describe the residential facility that is defined by your International House. Provide information about number of beds, number and type of meeting rooms, overall size of the facility, etc.
- b. Provide a brief history of your International House.
- c. Where and to whom does your I-House report? Is there a governing board? If so, describe the make-up and function of this board. If the house is a part of a university administrative operation show its place in the organizational structure of the university. Is the I-House a charitable or not for profit organization? Provide supporting information about the university and/or board as appropriate including a list of current board members.
- d. Provide information about the programs for residents that take place in the house? Particular emphasis should be made on cross cultural and/or cross national interactions.
- e. What percentage of students come from the host country? What is the demographic breakdown of residents from the most recent reporting year? Include information on gender, age range, country of origin, academic major if

available and graduate vs. undergraduate populations and other pertinent information that you might collect.

- f. Provide a copy of the policies and guidelines which govern life in the International House.
- g. Provide information about how the well-being of residents is exemplified in everyday life in your International House.
- h. Do you have an active dining hall or dining program for residents?
- i. Provide information about the admissions policy and selection process for your house. What are the principles that underlie this policy?
- j. Provide a resume for the Chief Executive Officer of the I-House.
- k. Provide information about the city and region in which your International House is located. This information should provide a snapshot of what life would be like for your residents away from the I-House.

Submission of Application

Your application, or any questions about IHWW, may be submitted electronically to Doug Weir, IHWW President, at doug.weir@ualberta.ca

The application will be forwarded to the Membership Committee of the IHWW Board of Directors for review and comments. Additional information may be requested before a final recommendation is made to the full membership. All applications must be submitted in English.

Distinctive Characteristics of an International House for Membership of International Houses Worldwide Inc.

International Houses Worldwide is an affiliation of International Houses from across the continents, united by one mission:

To provide students of different nationalities and diverse cultures with the opportunity to live and learn together in a community of mutual respect, understanding and international friendship.

An individual institution may happen not to meet every criterion as a technicality but demonstrate by its activities that its primary mission is to promote international understanding by providing a vibrant interacting international community of students and/or scholars living together which is distinct from that normally experienced in a university residential life facility.

A member of the “International Houses Worldwide Inc.” network should aim to meet the following criteria.

- Residential – Normally of a size which enables programmes to be self-sustaining, e.g. as a guide a minimum of 100 residents
- Freestanding, owned by or affiliated to a university with a self-governing Board independently able to promote the distinctive I House mission
- Charitable, not-for-profit status
- Tertiary students – undergraduate and/or postgraduate or visiting scholars.
- An approximate distribution of 35% international students
- An approximate distribution of 20% local students
- Diversity of nationalities
- Diversity of academic disciplines
- Provision of programs with the purpose of the betterment of international understanding by facilitating and enhancing cross-cultural and cross-national interaction
- A structured program that supports the well-being and development of its resident members
- Admissions policy dedicated to promoting broad based cultural and educational exchange
- Common central dining facility
- Common central social and meeting facilities
- Full-time senior CEO who is responsible to the self-governing Board
- ‘International’ should be included in the trading name
- Active involvement and participation in IHWW Inc.

Benefits of being a Member of International Houses Worldwide (IHHW) Inc.

There are a range of benefits of being a member of IHHW for International Houses, their Directors, Staff, Residents and Alumni.

Benefits for Directors and Staff

- Connection with common mission and values
- Directors conference every 12 - 18 months
- Programming staff meet at NAFSA conference annually
- Access to networking, benchmarking and support from other Directors and staff on an international rather than just national stage
- Links with 100 years of international history in multiple nations
- Potential to use IHHW as a market differentiator
- Access to common marketing (e.g. Logo, Brochure, Posters etc.)
- Listserv for Directors
- Cross promotion of International Houses
- Professional development
- Learning from best practice
- Use of IHHW trademark name and logo
- Assistance with trade marking of individual International House names

Benefits for Residents and Alumni

- Access to international network of residents
- Reputation of IHHW e.g. intercultural living is an item for residents' Curriculum Vitae
- 25% discounts for short visits at other International Houses participating the scheme
- Common activities across houses e.g. competitions, awards
- Opportunity for additional grants e.g. Projects for Peace
- Free room for International House institutional alumni reunions

IHHW Inc. is formally registered and incorporated as a non-profit organization in New York (Tax ID no. TF-2877557)

Brief History - International Houses Worldwide Inc.

The origins of International Houses Worldwide Inc. (IHWI Inc.) date back to 1948, when the International House Association (IHA), comprised of the Rockefeller-funded International Houses in New York, Chicago, Berkeley and Paris, was incorporated. The IHA focused principally on alumni of the four organizations. It produced enthusiastic alumni who began to form groups around the world. On November 10 (1936), the International House New York Alumni Association adopted a formal constitution. That day became International House Day, an annual occasion for alumni of Houses to gather in cities such as Stockholm, Oslo, Mexico City, Beijing (Peking), Port-au-Prince and Copenhagen. Berkeley Executive Director Emeritus W. Sheridan Warrick describes the activities of the Association:

founded under the leadership that included David Rockefeller, the IHA sought to work toward the brotherhood of man by gaining better knowledge and understanding of life and culture of all people and to cooperate with the International Houses and other organisations devoted to international understanding and world peace. By 1952, the IHA claimed forty-four chapters in 27 countries.

Although IHA chapters around the world continued to be active for some years, escalating costs forced the central organization to terminate its activities in 1961. Within Australia, the I-Houses in the 1970s held 'corroborees' whereby residents from Wollongong, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane came together to sustain the IH identity.

In July, 1961, a world conference of International Houses and Centers was held at Cité Universitaire in Paris, and in May, 1971, a second meeting was convened in Vancouver, B.C.

to exchange information on programs, operations, financing, the building of new International Houses, and any other pertinent questions which participants may wish to explore.

In the 1980s, a smaller group known as Heads of International Houses began holding regular meetings. In the 1990s the group began the practice of hosting meetings and now conferences at International Houses around the world, including gatherings in Alberta (2007), Berkeley (1995), Brisbane (1997, 2011), Chicago (1992), Darwin (2014), London (2004), Melbourne (2006) New York (1985, 1999, 2013), Philadelphia (2001, 2010), Sydney and Wollongong (1988, 2009), Taipei (2003), San Diego and Berkeley (2015) Goodenough College admitted in 2014 (with London in 2016), Bucharest admitted in 2015 (2017) and Washington DC (2018). Melbourne and Sydney will host in 2020.

The group formally changed its name to International Houses Worldwide and was incorporated on October 28, 2010. Our official location for the purposes of incorporation is I-House New York with the role of Treasurer residing in the US (currently in New York). The recent presidents of IHWI Inc. have been: Peter Anwyl (London), Associate Professor Jane Munro (Melbourne), Donald L. Cuneo (New York), Tanya Steinberg (Philadelphia), Dr Carla Tromans (Brisbane), Dr Denise Jorgens (Chicago), and Thomas O'Coin (Washington, DC). Dr Dylan Rust (Northern Arizona) is the current president

(2019-present). Carla Tromans (Brisbane) is the Secretary. Staff from International House New York is the acting Treasurer. An aim for the leadership of this group is to be inclusive and to encourage representation from around the world.

This group of International Houses or I-Houses shares a similar mission and most were conceived through philanthropic endeavors such as the Quakers, the Rockefeller and Dodge families, Rotary International, the Duke of Grafton and the Hon. Patrick Wills, and the Goodenough family. Although we observe different traditions some I-Houses continue to embed the I-House New York Harry Edmonds story, Sunday Suppers, the Candle-lighting Ceremony and the International House Pledge to cement and celebrate our collective history.

Note: Individual I-Houses each have their own history most of which can either be found on their websites, by reading their historical accounts captured in text or books, or by contacting the individual I-House.