

Membership of ETSG

All members, whether joining at Associate or Core level, should have an interest in early textiles of any kind, from any part of the world, with a terminal date of about 1600 CE. 'Textile' is here used as an umbrella term to cover all fibre products. Members must be willing to share knowledge and experience, and be open to advancing their learning.

The Early Textiles Study Group (ETSG) began in 1981 when a small group of people working with, or researching into, archaeological textiles started to meet together. The number of those participating in the Group has grown gradually. As well as those involved with archaeological textiles, the ETSG now embraces specialists in fibres, textile techniques such as weaving, dyeing, conservation and modern analysis as well as embroidery, lace and clothing.

Membership is available at two levels, Associate and Core. The Associate level is open to anyone with 'a passion for the subject': such members may attend and take part in any activities run by the ETSG, but do not have a vote at general meetings or have a formal role in running the group. Those wishing to join as an Associate should contact the group membership secretary via etsgmembership@gmail.com.

People can only join at Core level after approval from existing Core members, and agreed by the core membership as a whole.

Core members are generally experienced and recognised experts in their own branch of textile research or practice, whether working in an institution or independently. They are able to vote at an annual or special general meeting and can hold office or be a full member of the governing committee.

It is hoped that Associates could move to Core membership by gaining experience in their careers e.g. research leading to a publication, or attaining a professional qualification.

The Key Criteria for core membership are:

- Dedication to early textiles through study, employment and/or voluntary placement.
- Sharing knowledge through publications and teaching.

Supportive criteria

- Developing and shaping education relevant to the academic or practical study of early textiles.
- Well-known and respected academic or craftsperson.
- Having contacts and collaboration with textile craftspeople.
- Recognised as an asset to, and advocate for, early textiles.
- Active member of a recognised professional body or textile network/organisation, including of the Early Textiles Study Group as an Associate member.