

# Current Rules

## 1. Association Name and Domicile

The association's name is *Turun yliopiston biologian, maantieteen ja geologian väitöskirjatutkijoiden yhdistys BRIDGE ry*, and its domicile is Turku. The association may also use the English name BGG Researchers in Doctoral Group Engagement BRIDGE.

## 2. Purpose and Nature of Activities

The purpose of the association is to act as an advocate for doctoral researchers in the biology, geography and geology (BGG) doctoral program at the University of Turku in matters related to studies, supervision, and research, as well as to organize events and activities for its members. To achieve its purpose, the association cooperates with the department of biology, department of geography and geology and the biodiversity unit at the University of Turku, and other associations advocating for the interests of students in these fields. To support its activities, the association is entitled to accept donations. The association may organize paid events and fundraising with the appropriate permission.

## 3. Members

Membership in the association is open to doctoral researchers belonging to the biology, geography and geology (BGG) doctoral program at the University of Turku. Supporting membership may be granted to a private individual or a legal entity that wishes to support the association's purpose and activities. Regular and supporting members are approved by the association's board upon application.

## 4. Joining and Membership Fees

The amount of the joining fee and annual membership fee for regular and supporting members shall be decided separately for each group by the autumn meeting.

## 5. Resignation and Expulsion of Members

A member may resign from the association:

- by submitting a written resignation notice to the board or its chairperson, or
- by declaring their resignation in the minutes of an association meeting.

A member may be expelled:

- by decision of the association if at least three-fourths (3/4) of the voting members present at the meeting support the proposal, or
- by decision of the board if the member no longer meets the membership requirements.

## 6. Board

The affairs of the association are managed by a board consisting of a chairperson and 2–4 other regular members elected at the annual meeting. The board's term is the calendar year. The board elects a vice-chairperson from among its members and appoints a secretary and other necessary officers from among its members or externally. The board meets at the invitation of the chairperson or, if they are unavailable, the vice-chairperson, whenever deemed necessary or when at least half of the board members request it. The board has a quorum when at least half of its members, including the chairperson or vice-chairperson, are present. Decisions are made by an absolute majority of votes. In the event of a tie, the chairperson's vote decides, except in elections, where the decision is made by drawing lots.

## 7. Signing the Association's Name

The association's name is signed jointly by the chairperson of the board together with one other board member.

## 8. Financial Year

The association's fiscal year is the calendar year.

## 9. Association Meetings

The association holds two regular meetings annually. The spring meeting is held between January and May, and the autumn meeting between September and December, on a date determined by the board. In addition, the association may hold extraordinary meetings if the

board deems it necessary or if at least one-tenth (1/10) of the regular members request it in writing for a specific matter. The meeting must be held within one month of the request. At association meetings, each regular member, honorary chairperson, and honorary member has one vote. Supporting members have the right to attend and speak at meetings. Unless otherwise provided in the rules, decisions are made by a majority of votes cast. In the event of a tie, the chairperson's vote decides, except in elections, where the decision is made by drawing lots. The board may decide that participation in meetings is possible via telecommunication or other technical means. Meetings are valid when convened according to the rules. Voting by proxy is allowed, but one regular member may represent at most three other regular members who are unable to attend.

## 10. Convening Association Meetings

The board must convene association meetings at least seven days before the meeting by sending letters or emails to members.

## 11. Ordinary Meetings

**At the spring meeting, the following matters are addressed:**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the chairperson, secretary, two reviewers of the minutes, and, if necessary, two vote counters
3. Confirmation of the legality and quorum of the meeting
4. Approval of the agenda
5. Presentation of the financial statement or annual accounts, annual report, and the auditors' statement
6. Decision on the approval of the financial statement or annual accounts and granting discharge to the board and other accountable persons
7. Discussion of other matters mentioned in the meeting notice.

**At the autumn meeting, the following matters are addressed:**

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Election of the chairperson, secretary, two reviewers of the minutes, and, if necessary, two vote counters
3. Confirmation of the legality and quorum of the meeting
4. Approval of the agenda
5. Approval of the action plan, budget, and membership fees for the next calendar year
6. Election of the chairperson and other board members
7. Election of one or two auditors and deputy auditors or one or two accountants and deputy accountants
8. Discussion of other matters mentioned in the meeting notice.

If a member wishes to have a matter discussed at the spring or autumn meeting, they must notify the board in writing in sufficient time for the matter to be included in the meeting notice.

## 12. Amendment of Rules and Dissolution of the Association

A decision to amend the rules or dissolve the association must be made at an association meeting by at least a three-fourths (3/4) majority of votes cast. The meeting notice must mention the amendment or dissolution. Upon dissolution, the association's assets shall be used to promote the association's purpose in a manner determined by the meeting deciding on the dissolution. If the association is terminated, its assets shall be used for the same purpose.