



UK Access Management Federation
for Education and Research

UK federation Eligibility Policy

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Background and Definitions

1. This eligibility policy defines the types of membership available to organisations wishing to join the UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research (the UK federation).
2. The UK federation supports simplified access to electronic resources through the use of a single set of credentials. The principal customers of the service are Schools, Further and Higher Education, and Research organisations in the UK.
3. The policy is maintained by the UK federation Policy and Advisory Board which will resolve any dispute over its interpretation. Day-to-day implementation of the policy is carried out by the federation operator: The JISC Content Procurement Company limited, trading as "JISC Collections".
4. A SERVICE PROVIDER is an organisation which owns or controls access to online materials or services that users may wish to access. SERVICE PROVIDERS grant access to these resources by licence or other agreement either directly with the user's home organisation or with some other body acting on behalf of home organisations.
5. An IDENTITY PROVIDER is responsible for managing their users' electronic identities and for issuing assertions so that users may gain access to services.

Types of Member

6. The two main types of members are defined as follows: (See **note 1.**)
7. IDENTITY PROVIDER members may deploy one or more identity provider entities within the UK federation and may also optionally deploy service provider entities.
8. SERVICE PROVIDER members may only deploy service provider entities.

Eligibility for SERVICE PROVIDER Membership

9. Two eligibility tests are applied as follows.
10. A SERVICE PROVIDER's membership must be in the interests of education and research and/or be of benefit to the UK federation or its members (See **note 2.**); and
11. The admission of an organisation as a SERVICE PROVIDER member must not present any substantive risk to the federation's reputation. (See **note 3.**)

Eligibility for IDENTITY PROVIDER Membership

12. Two eligibility tests are applied as follows.
13. The organisation must be sponsored by a funding body (See **note 4.**); or
14. The organisation must have an education or research remit. (See **note 5.**)

Outsourcing the IDENTITY PROVIDER

15. An IDENTITY PROVIDER member is permitted to outsource to a third party the operation of its functions as an identity provider entity. While this outsourcing agreement is in operation, the third party must itself qualify as a member of the federation, specifically by meeting the criteria set out in 11 above.
16. Third party providers who do not in themselves independently qualify for IDENTITY PROVIDER membership may only register additional identity provider entities in the context of further outsourcing agreements; they may not register identity provider entities for themselves.(See **note 6.**)

Outsourcing the SERVICE PROVIDER

17. A SERVICE PROVIDER organisation is permitted to outsource to a third party its functions as a service provider entity. In this case only the outsourcing provider needs be a member of the UK federation. (See **note 7.**)

Notes

1. It is helpful to distinguish between those organisations wishing to provide services (e.g. commercial publishers) and those wishing to consume services (e.g. universities, schools or local authorities). Members of the federation may be SERVICE PROVIDERS, IDENTITY PROVIDERS or both (if they wish both to provide and to consume services).
2. Examples of organisations whose membership would be deemed to be in the interests of education and research are publishers of academic journals and other online education or training materials.
3. An example of a substantive risk to the federation would be one organisation's membership causing another member organisation to review its membership because of potential damage to its reputation.
4. Examples of sponsored organisations would be a school, a local authority, a further education college, a higher education institution or a research organisation.
5. Examples of eligible bodies would be independent schools, colleges and universities, NHS trusts, museums, public libraries, the Ministry of Defence and government agencies. It should be noted that charges may be applied.
6. A third party organisation providing an outsourced identity provider entity is appointed by an IDENTITY PROVIDER member of the federation. The appointed organisation must join the federation against the same eligibility tests as for SERVICE PROVIDER members. However, the appointed organisation may not register another identity provider entity unless it is independently eligible for IDENTITY PROVIDER membership or represents another member of the federation which is eligible for IDENTITY PROVIDER membership.
7. An organisation providing an outsourced service provider entity must be a member of the federation. However, the underlying owner of the content or service need not be a member of the federation. The eligibility test for an outsourced service provider is the same as for a SERVICE PROVIDER member.