

# New Affiliation Types for 3.0 API and UI

Public proposal

**Feedback period ends November 20th 2017**

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## Background

ORCID currently supports education and employment affiliation types and encourages authoritative sources to populate them. However, a number of our members have relationships with researchers that fall outside of these two categories and are therefore unable to make affiliation assertions. This document outlines new affiliation types that cater for these emerging use cases.

There has been extensive internal discussion around which affiliation types we should include within the Registry and how they should be represented. The purpose of this document is to gather feedback on a proposed affiliation types data model.

## What is an affiliation?

An affiliation is a formal relationship between a person and an organisation. For our purposes, it should be a relationship that could be asserted by an organisation in coordination with the researcher.

## New types under consideration

This proposal adds two new affiliation types to the ORCID data model and modifies an existing one, making a total of four types. The existing affiliation types remain largely unchanged and the new types are designed to capture broad rather than fine-grained categories of relationships. These decisions reflect a considered compromise between complexity and usability. We are hoping for a more widely applicable vocabulary, but not one that leaves end users overwhelmed with options.

**Employment:** This type is unmodified. It represents formal employment relationships, such as staff, researcher, faculty or contractor.

**Education and Qualifications:** Education has been expanded beyond ongoing or completed academic study. It now includes other forms of training, professional qualifications, and certifications.

**Honorary Positions and Awards:** This category captures distinctions bestowed upon the record owner, such as prizes, honorary degrees, or fellowships.

**Membership and Service:** This category contains work performed by a record owner that lies outside of formal employment, such as editorial service, serving on a committee, or election to a Board. It also encompasses the concept of society or professional association membership.

All of these types other than employment must be one of two subtypes, which are used to define finer grained relationships. The subtypes are mandatory and will work in the same way as our existing funding activities, which can be marked as “grant”, “award”, “salary award” or “contract”.

By limiting ourselves to two new types we prevent a proliferation of types within the ORCID API, XML schema and user interface. This reduces the disruption caused to existing clients when upgrading and also presents users with a manageable number of clearly delimited and understandable categories.

The lack of complex categorisation means the new model does include some ambiguity that needs to be addressed. In addition, some affiliations could potentially fit in more than one type as practice varies between institutions and across borders. To combat these problems, finer grained subtype information should be implied through descriptive text in the title field.

## Current working model

We are soliciting comment on the following model for types and subtypes within the API and UI. We are interested in feedback on which subtypes should be made available, example affiliations, the use cases for them and their international applicability. Feedback on the overall approach, the top level categories and the use of a fixed list of subtypes is also welcome. When giving feedback, please consider the following:

- Do the categories make sense?
- Are the subtypes useful?
- What is missing from the list?
- What shouldn't be here?
- Where would your affiliations fit in the model?
- What distinctions are made in your locale?
- What issues does this model present?

Type	Subtypes	Examples and notes
<b>Employment</b>		Formal employment including faculty, postgraduate researchers, internships, other staff and contractors.
<b>Education and Qualifications</b>	Education	Undergraduate, AA, Masters, MFA, PhD, ScD, JD, etc.
	Qualification	Accreditation or certification, e.g. professional qualifications, CME, CEE, lab safety, prince2 practitioner, data enclave certification.
<b>Honorary Positions and Awards</b>	Honorary Position	Honorary research fellow, emeritus professor, visiting lecturer.
	Award	Honorary degrees, cash prizes, trophies, other distinctions.
<b>Membership and Service</b>	Membership	Member of an association or society.
	Service	Significant donations time, money or other resources, such as: working on a project, standards body, expert panel, editorial board, study group or committee. Also includes society officer positions, agricultural extension work, volunteer work.

## Outstanding issues

There are many nuances in affiliations, not the least of which are words with different definitions and positions with different meanings depending on context and location. These issues may not be entirely resolvable beyond giving clear directions as to the preferred place in the record.

**Visiting scholar/professor:** Sometimes unsalaried, sometimes paid by home institution, sometimes by host institution. In the UK, sometimes the scholar pays the host institution for use of shared facilities. We suggest this affiliation be coded as “honorary position”.

**Voluntary work / internship:** The boundary between employment and service is open to interpretation. We suggest this affiliation be coded as “employment” for formal (such as internship) and “service” for informal (such as donating time to start a new initiative).

**Society officer:** This could fit in membership, service, employment AND honorary positions. We suggest this affiliation be coded as “service”.