



Emerging Professionals

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Emerging Professionals Committee (EPC)?

The Emerging Professionals Committee (EPC) provides an opportunity for young ASM members to become involved with ASM at the national level and allow them to see the inner workings of a successful international professional society. The networking opportunities developed at this level help members to identify committees and areas within ASM in which they are interested. The committee also serves as a catalyst for developing and promoting the early career professional community within ASM overall, working on projects and initiatives to enhance the membership value.

2. What projects does the committee usually work on for ASM?

The Emerging Professionals Committee works on a variety of projects. Promoting the Emerging Professionals Achievement Award (and helping to select the winner), helping students transition to professional membership, planning a symposium at IMAT, writing AM&P articles, hosting webinars, and maintaining an ASM Connect presence are just some of the projects the committee organizes and develops.

3. What is expected of committee members?

Members are expected to attend committee meetings, usually two/three times a month via videoconference (once for a full committee meeting and again for any project group meetings). Each member is required to join a project group. Additionally, members are expected to work on projects to further the committee's goals and purpose.

4. Is there any travel required? How much and where?

Travel is not required to conduct regular business. It is heavily encouraged, however, that the selectees attend the annual IMAT conference in the fall where the EPC holds a strategy meeting in-person.

5. Is funding available for attending IMAT?

Funding is not currently available for committee members. However, many members find that their companies or local ASM Chapters are willing to offset some of the costs associated with involvement in their professional organizations. Applicants and members of the EPC are encouraged to inquire with their employers and their local Chapters about such opportunities.

6. Can you speak to the pros and cons of the committee?

The EPC has many advantages: it provides a transitional stage into professional membership from your student experience. As an EPC member, you will network at national and international levels, engage with the in-depth workings of ASM, find multiple leadership opportunities, and meet a remarkable group of new friends – early-career professionals that are just like you. The committee provides opportunities for access to seasoned professionals as well as allows you to have a voice in the development of resources and products from ASM, targeted at the Emerging Professional Community. It would be hard to name any disadvantages; however, you may want to consider whether the additional commitments and responsibilities within the Society are right for you.

7. I am already involved with my local ASM Chapter, what additional benefit is there to getting involved with the EPC?

An immediate benefit is your participation on an international scale and the broader vision that the Society provides. When you are selected to the EPC, you start to interact closely and regularly with other early-career professionals from around the country and around the world. Networking within the ASM committee structure is a valuable experience, particularly because these committees make decisions that affect the entire organization, not just your local materials community.

8. How is this committee different from similar initiatives at other materials organizations?

You can imagine the Emerging Professionals Committee as a subset of early career professionals within the entire ASM International community. We exist in part to build relevant programming, resources, and products for the early career professional demographic and to facilitate further interaction between the community and ASM International as a whole.

9. What is the EPC's relationship to ASM's affiliate societies? May I apply as a member of an affiliate society? Is there any kind of conflict, such as membership in other societies, which could disqualify me should I decide to apply?

Members of affiliate societies under ASM International's umbrella are encouraged to apply so long as they fulfill other requirements, such as professional-member status (i.e. not a student member) and five years or less since completion of post-secondary education. There are no conflicts in regards to other professional societies – the Emerging Professionals Committee exists within ASM International – it is independent of other professional societies you may be a member of or have an interest in working with.

10. Does the EPC have local Chapters?

No, the EPC functions at the national level. All of our members are in turn members of their respective local ASM professional Chapters (if one is available in your area). However, a subset of the EPC is active in developing young member involvement at the local Chapter level.

11. Is the EPC limited to professionals with a degree in materials science or metallurgy? Does it matter what level or type of degree I have (BS, MS, or PhD)?

You do not have to have a degree in materials to join the EPC, but you must be a member of ASM. Your level of formal education has no bearing on your eligibility or likeliness of being selected for the committee. The EPC is open to anyone who is transitioning from a student to a professional membership (up to 5 years post graduation) and just like the Society as a whole, the EPC is made up of professionals with a broad range of backgrounds (academia, large corporate, government, national labs, and small business). We encourage ASM members from any education background to apply, and we have members with BS, MS, and PhD's – all that is required is a desire to be involved and an interest in the future of ASM International.

12. I live overseas – can I still apply? How do you get together to organize and execute events at the ASM National Meeting if we live in different parts of the world?

ASM is an international society and so is the Emerging Professionals Committee. The EPC participates in a monthly videoconference to align efforts and keep track of projects but also collaborates by email or ASM Connect.

13. How large is the Emerging Professionals Committee in terms of membership?

ASM's goal is to maintain a core group of approximately 15-20 individuals. The exact figure may change slightly depending on committee needs. In addition, the EPC requires that applicants serve on a EPC project group.

14. Where can I find more information on the Emerging Professionals Committee?

You can find basic information about the Emerging Professionals Committee on [our webpage](#). Alternatively, you can contact the EPC Staff Liaison, [Drew Fleming](#).