UK ORCID consortium membership

2025 Pricing FAQ

Background

Jisc and ORCID both share a mission to support the wider digital infrastructure needed for researchers to share research on a global scale. The Jisc UK ORCID consortium provides tailored support and improved services so that you can more quickly gain the benefits and efficiencies of ORCID implementation.

As a member of the consortium, we would like to let you know about your membership and the Jisc ORCID consortium membership fees.

Member benefits

As well as access to the premium API, by implementing ORCID as a member of the UK consortium you can benefit from:

- Support tailored to UK institutions, including locally hosted events and webinars and a dedicated support team with defined service levels

- Cost and time saved by using shared resources created by the consortium for member use

- Community of practice sharing resources and experiences among peers

- Synthesising common requirements to different stakeholders and exploring solutions

- Improved quality of integrations meeting ORCID's recommended practice by working directly with vendor communities

- Improved quality and effectiveness of communications and engagement

- The ability to influence the direction of ORCID as a group of implementors

- Actively participating in shaping the wider PID landscape

- National and international representation in standards and policy-making initiatives and activities

Recognition of ORCID iDs

Since the launch of the consortium in 2015, the policy landscape has evolved in support of ORCID iDs which have become the **de facto standard** as part of the **infrastructure** to support research and research management. It has also become part of some funder's policy, such as **UK Research and Innovation open access policy – UKRI**. Of course, ORCID is just one in a number of key PIDs, and Jisc, working with the community, is leading on initiatives in the UK to further evolve the wider **PID landscape** and a **national PID strategy for the UK**. In 2020 we celebrated the **5th anniversary of the Jisc ORCID consortium** and our journey of improvements to the technical landscape, to allow institutions to benefit more from their consortium membership. The consortium has continued to grow and go from strength to strength, **reaching over 100 members** in 2022.

Changes to membership fees

Membership fees between 2015 and 2024 were based on a 3-year licence agreement between Jisc and ORCID and Jisc and consortium members. Prompted by changes to ORCID's pricing model, Jisc is now offering the licence agreement as a 1-year model with a new pricing structure. This new pricing structure will support sustainability for the consortium and current and planned technical and community activities provided by Jisc.

1. **What are the new membership fees?**
   The new prices are based on ORCID's three-tier structure and a support fee to cover the running of the consortium. ORCID's three tiers are determined by the members' total income. Jisc prices are derived from

the tier fee charged by ORCID and a support fee based on Jisc Licensing bandings and are priced in UK pounds. Prices are presented as one combined fee. The full price list for the 2025 licence period is:

Band (2019)	ORCID Tier	Price for 2025[1]
Band 1	**Large**	£6,499
Band 2	**Large**	£6,499
Band 3	**Large**	£5,499
	Standard	£4,603
Band 4	**Standard**	£4,603
Band 5A	**Standard**	£4,603
Band 5B	**Standard**	£3,853
Band 6	**Standard**	£3,603
Band 7	**Standard**	£3,603
Band 8	**Standard**	£2,603
Band 9	**Standard**	£2,603
Band 10	**Standard**	£2,603

Table 1: Total cost for members

2. **When does the new fee pricing happen?**
   The new 1-year contracts with the new prices will begin 01 January 2025.

3. **Do institutions need to do anything?**
   Jisc Licensing will contact you at renewal time (most likely in October 2024) to sign up to the new agreement. The catalogue will be available for ordering from October for any organisations that wish to complete their order early. All members will receive an annual renewal notice to confirm continued participation from year to year.

4. **What has prompted the change in pricing model?**
   From 2024, ORCID has introduced a new three-tier price structure for the UK ORCID consortium. The UK ORCID consortium has previously benefited from a legacy licence model (as published in past FAQs and reproduced below) paying a fixed package fee to ORCID (based on two tiers: 99 members and below, and over 100 members) for the consortium membership. In 2024, Jisc absorbed additional licence costs charged by ORCID for transition to the new charging model, which is now based on three tiers and costed on a per-member basis. The legacy model is no longer available to the UK and, in line with all the other global consortia, we are now on a per-member model (explained in Q5). The new model has increased consortium licence fee costs considerably from 2024. Changes to prices for members will come in effect on 1 January 2025.

Tier	2022	2023	2024
30 - 99 members	USD 151,944	USD 156,502	USD 161,197
100 - 250 members	USD 225,102	USD 231,855	USD 238,810

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[1] Prices exclude and are subject to VAT. A transaction management charge, currently either £100 or £50 for invoices over and under £1000 respectively is also applicable.

Table 2: ORCID Consortium's legacy pricing model for the 2022-2024 licence period

5. **What is ORCID's new 3-tier pricing model**?
   ORCID consortium fees are now calculated using a per-member model, with the price set by ORCID based on the number of members in the consortium, and by assigning one of three tiers (small, standard and large) to each consortium member, based on the member's income. ORCID introduced the **tiered fee structure** based on the **ORCID's fee principles**, which explains how ORCID sets its fees.

   Based on a consortium size of over 60 members, the price in USD for each tier (as published by ORCID for 2025) works out as:

Min consortium members	Annual fee per member[2]		
	Small Tier below USD 10M	Standard Tier USD 10M – 1B	Large Tier above USD 1B
60	USD 1,700	USD 3,395	USD 4,565

   Table 3: ORCID's consortia membership fees

   As of June 2024, 88% of our members are in the Standard Tier and 12% are in the Large Tier.

6. **What can we expect for 2026 and 2027?**
   ORCID's fees are reviewed and adjusted annually to reflect the development of ORCID's cost base. ORCID's annual fee increases generally will be no more than 3% per annum and ORCID will provide no less than 60 days' advance notice to Jisc of any such fee increase. ORCID reserves the right to restructure the consortium fee model from time to time at its discretion, and if such changes result in an increase in the Consortium Fee of more than 3% other than due to changes in the Consortium Composition, ORCID will provide no less than 12 months' advance note of any such change. In 2026 and 2027 consortium membership prices will be set to cover the expected ORCID fee increase, support costs, and factoring in any exchange rate and cost changes, as well as longer term sustainability.

7. **Why is this a 1-year licence?**
   We are moving to 1-year licence agreements as we cannot anticipate the ORCID pricing too far in advance and need to evaluate the new support cost charge annually using the new model.

8. **What is the alternative? How does this compare to going directly to ORCID?**
   Institutions can choose to go directly to ORCID for either Basic or Premium membership. The **ORCID Membership page** describes the different levels of membership. Note the Basic membership has limitations on data usage and number of API keys. The **direct membership** level of fees for 2025 for premium access are given by ORCID as:

Direct Membership (Premium Access)	Annual Fee
Small non-profit and government organizations with **less than USD 200M** in annual revenue or funds	**USD 9,270**
Large non-profit and government organizations with **more than USD 200M** in annual revenue or funds	**USD 23,185**

   Table 4: ORCID's direct membership fees

   Compared to Premium membership direct from ORCID, it is cheaper to get Premium membership via the Jisc UK ORCID consortium (which includes additional and localised technical and community support). By joining

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[2] ORCID "fees exclude any applicable taxes and are always invoiced in USD. Membership applies to a single legal entity and the revenue/grant funding of that entity will be used to determine the applicable fee. In order to cover operational costs, consortia lead organizations may include additional fees on top of the ORCID fee or apply a different fee structure for their members.)" - **Membership Benefits and Fees**

the Jisc UK ORCID consortium, institutions will get more for less. Note that the Jisc consortium only offers Premium membership. Based on the analysis of income we have carried out to determine the tiers that members fall into for consortium fees, we estimate that 80% of our members would be paying as large non-profit organisations (i.e. USD 23,185 in 2025) for direct Premium ORCID membership. Due to changes in the income of institutions, exchange rate movements, periodic re-evaluation of the Bands and annual price reviews by ORCID, any savings comparison can only be treated as indicative and subject to change.

9. **What were the considerations when modelling the new pricing?**

   - A discounted rate - Jisc ORCID membership is significantly cheaper than a direct agreement with ORCID for Premium membership.

   - As well as access to the premium API, this discounted rate includes a greater level of support tailored to UK members. Consortium membership provides more for less.

   - Vary the support fee element using banding to reduce the impact of the ORCID price change and make the consortium accessible to all members across the Jisc banding levels

   - The price modelling has factored in changes to the ORCID consortium pricing to allow us to maintain consortium sustainability into the future.

   - Due to the difficult financial situations faced by our members and continuing challenges in the current environment, Jisc held prices at 2020 levels through to 2024. Normally prices would be expected to change with increasing costs, however Jisc absorbed increased costs for as long as possible. Jisc also absorbed the costs of a transition fee applied by ORCID in 2024 without passing this on to members. Due to a fundamental change in the cost of the consortium licence, the pricing model has now been updated to ensure sustainability.

10. **What are the benefits to institutions? What value does this have?**
    A full list of the features of ORCID membership is available **here**. As well as having access to the premium API, with the support of the UK consortium, member institutions will be able to implement ORCID more effectively and efficiently by benefiting from:

    - Cost and time saved by using shared resources created by the consortium for member use

    - Improved quality of integrations meeting ORCID's recommended practice

    - Improved quality and effectiveness of communications and engagement

    - Support tailored to UK institutions

    - The ability to influence the direction of ORCID

11. **What happens if the needed funds are not raised?**
    Jisc cannot provide the same level of support without sufficient funding and so it would not be viable for us to continue to lead the consortium. Members would therefore have to go directly to ORCID, pay increased costs and lose additional, localised support.

12. **Can we get a breakdown of what the costs are going towards (i.e. how much on support / ORCID membership fee)?**
    Through the fees charged to members, Jisc must cover the ORCID consortium fees on a per-member rate, which is priced in US dollars, based on current conditions (size of the consortium) and the 2025 pricing. The per-member tier rates for 2025 are:

Small Tier below USD 10M	Standard Tier USD 10M – 1B	Large Tier above USD 1B
USD 1,700	USD 3,395	USD 4,565

Table 5: ORCID's member tiers and rates for 2025

The new pricing provides greater transparency in how costs are allocated. At the time of publication, the consortium supports 107 member institutions. The price includes the ORCID per-member fee and support costs. The responsibilities for ORCID and consortia are outlined **in this page**. The updated subscription model builds in sustainability for growth to ensure we are able to cover both licence and other costs regardless of the growth in the consortium.

13. **Why isn't this cost being included in the main Jisc subscription?**
The number of services we can include in the main subscription is limited by core funding constraints. If we are to add additional services to the main subscription, the main subscription would need to be re-evaluated.

Note: FAQ updated on 18th September 2024 following the announcement by ORCID of the 2025 prices.