

HOW TO BECOME A FREEMASON

Freemasons are members of the oldest and largest fraternity in the world, with over two million active members. Freemasonry originated in the late 16th or early 17th century, and its members have included kings, presidents, scholars, and religious figures.

Learn about the tradition of Freemasonry and how to become a member of this esteemed brotherhood.

1

Understand freemasonry basics. Freemasonry was founded by men who shared a commitment to supporting each other in friendship, fellowship and service to mankind.

For thousands of years, men have found spiritual and philosophical fulfilment as members of the fraternity, which still operates on the same core values.

In order to become a Freemason, it is necessary to meet these requirements:

- Be a man. ((There are Lodges for Women)
- Have a sound reputation and be well-recommended by your peers.
- In most freemasonry jurisdictions, you must believe in a Supreme Being, regardless of your religion.
- Be over the age of 21 years. (18yrs for the son of a Freemason)

2

Be interested in character building and morality.

The Freemason motto is "better men make a better world." Freemasonry stresses honour, personal responsibility and personal integrity, and offers the following to its members:

- Monthly or bi-monthly gatherings at Freemason lodges, which are often in Masonic Halls or public buildings. In the UK most of the lodges are purpose built.
- Teachings on the history of Freemasonry etc.
- Encouragement to live for the good of all mankind, and ideas for practicing good citizenship and acting with charity and love.
- An invitation to participate in the ancient rites of Freemasonry, including a handshake, the rituals of initiation, and freedom to use the Masonic square and compass symbol.

3

Separate the hype from the truth.

Books like *The Da Vinci Code* have perpetuated the nonsense notion that Freemasonry is a secret society with designs on taking over the world.

Hidden symbols are said to be scattered around Washington, DC and other cities. The truth is that Freemasons are not part of any such conspiracy, and people who attempt to join Freemasonry hoping to gain access to secrets are not approaching the fraternity with the right intentions, nor those who seek financial gain.

Requesting Membership of The Fraternity

1

Contact your local Lodge. The easiest way to begin the initiation process is to contact your local Masonic, District or Provincial Lodge which is usually listed on a web search and say you are interested in membership.

- Find a Freemason. Many Freemasons proudly display the Masonic symbol on bumper stickers, hats, and clothing or ring. They are happy to talk to people who wish to find out more information.
- Some jurisdictions require that potential members approach the brotherhood of their own accord, but others allow members to issue invitations. If you have been invited to become a Freemason by a known member, feel free to take the next steps.

2

What is the next stage?

Accept an invitation to meet with the Freemasons.

After your interest has been reviewed it is likely that a home visit will be arranged for an informal talk with yourself and your partner.

You will then be called to the Lodge for a friendly interview with about three or four Freemasons.

- You will be asked questions concerning your reasons for wanting to become a Freemason, your history, and your character.
- You will have the opportunity to ask questions about Freemasonry.
- The Lodge will then spend a week or two contacting references regarding your character and conducting a backward check. Alcoholism, drug abuse, abuse of family, and other issues may be grounds for denial.

- The Lodge's members will vote on whether to accept you. At this stage a positive outcome is already likely.
- If you are accepted, you will receive an invitation to become a member

Becoming a Freemason

1

Begin as an apprentice. To become a Freemason, you must proceed through the process of obtaining three symbolic degrees. The Entered Apprentice is the first degree and introduces candidates to the basic principles of Freemasonry.

- Moral truths are impressed upon new candidates by the symbolic use of building tools.
- Apprentices must become proficient in one catechism before they can move on to the next step.

2

Proceed to the Fellow Craft degree. The second degree continues to instil in candidates the principles of their new membership, especially their close association with the arts and sciences of Freemasonry.

- Candidates are asked a series of questions which they answer by memory, on their mastery of knowledge learned as an apprentice before advancing to the second degree.

3

Become a Master Mason. The Master Mason degree is the highest degree a Freemason can earn.

- Candidates must demonstrate proficiency in the values of Freemasonry in the way of answering some questions.

- On completion of the Third Degree ceremony it is celebrated at the festive-board.
- There is no specific timescale on how long it will take to become a Master Mason. It is very much dependent on attendance and the Lodge calendar of events. It can take as little as four months but generally up to one year. You just progress at your own comfortable pace.

How much does it cost to become a Freemason?

Having been accepted to join the Lodge you will need to pay certain fees.

Lodge fees vary from Lodge to Lodge and consist of a joining fee which is one-off payment, an annual membership subscription and then of course there is the cost of dining at each meeting.

You will also need to own a dark or black suit and black tie.

Camalodunum Lodge Fees:

Joining Fee (a one-time payment): £100

Annual subscription: £132

This is paid pro rata when you join.

You can choose to pay this by monthly instalments.

Dining at the “festive board”: £12

This is usually a three-course meal with coffee.

There is a collection for Alms at the end of the Lodge meeting.

This is voluntary and like a collection after a church service.

We usually raise money for charitable causes by having a raffle at the end of the festive board.

You do not need to purchase any regalia until you become a Master Mason in the 3rd degree. Regalia costs £50 - £60

When do we meet?

Camalodunum Lodge meetings are always on the second Tuesday of the month. The meeting starts at 7pm prompt and the evening usually ends at about 10pm.

Friday before the main meeting

Rehearsal Night (informal dress)

It is requested that all officers taking part in the ceremony try to attend.

2nd Tuesday of the month

Main Lodge Night (formal in regalia)

3rd Tuesday of the Month

Junior Lodge (Lodge of Instruction) (informal dress)

This is where the Worshipful Master and his team of officers for the following year learn their ritual for the ceremonies. It is highly recommended but not compulsory that new brethren try to attend. This is where you begin to **learn, practise and understand** Freemasonry.

The evening is very informal, friendly and the bar is open.

VISITING

As soon as you have become a Freemason, you are very welcome to visit any Craft Lodge in the country.

You can visit Lodges whilst on holiday or travelling on Business. However, most Freemasons and their fellow Brothers visit Lodges in the Province.

It is both a great learning experience and an enjoyable night out with good company.