



ELASA Guide



about this guide

This guideline for ELASA (European Landscape Architecture Student Association) is a written document attempting to collect and share the values and structure of the organization. It is accessible to anyone who is interested in discovering and sharing knowledge and experiences about landscape architecture through a student network.

It is important to note that the contents of this document should not be regarded as a strict set of rules. An additional guide is available for organisers with detailed information about everything concerning organizing and executing a successful ELASA meeting.

This document was created by the guideline working group between September 2024 and April 2025, and was accepted at the 2025 annual plenary in Romania. Last revision was made in November 2025.

Subsequent revisions are recommended and this document is free to be changed by future working groups if necessary.

imprint

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legal notice

ELASA is a network for landscape architecture students across Europe. While we strive to ensure accuracy, we do not take responsibility for external content or links. The views expressed in this document are confirmed by all participants and representatives in the annual plenary during the ELASA 2025 meeting in Romania.

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common values

The European Landscape Architecture Student Association (ELASA) connects landscape architecture students from across Europe. ELASA serves as a platform for collaboration, learning and exchange of ideas, fostering a sense of community and professional development. Every year, ELASA hosts an annual meeting and a mini meeting as a place for members to meet in person.

During the meetings, ELASA creates space for its members to learn about the broad field of landscape architecture and its related disciplines from many perspectives. ELASA members also represent landscape architecture students in European and global professional and educational organizations.

ELASA as an organization does not subscribe to or represent any ideological agenda. It is open to all, regardless of race, gender or sexuality. This community relies on mutual respect and non-exclusionary behavior. No form of discrimination is tolerated at any event endorsed by ELASA.

ELASA was founded in 1990, in Portugal, as a free association. It is voluntary based and non profit, there is no official board and no hierarchy, however members can hold certain responsibilities. The association is a mission created and upheld by students for students. ELASA is independent from other organizations, however we have received persisting support from IFLA Europe.

working groups

Working groups can be formed for targeting specific tasks in regards to the organization. Active and old members are both encouraged to take part in working groups. The members of the working group can operate in the form of online meetings or can gather in person. In this case, additional support can be requested from ELASA, if the organisation's funds allow it.

Current and past examples include: logo development, guideline development & website updates.

student representatives

Student representatives are responsible for ensuring communication between ELASA, students and associations from their countries. We are aiming to have two representatives per country at all times.

Representatives spread the word about the organization and the meetings, as well as function as a contact person for students of their nation for any and all questions regarding ELASA. An updated list of all current representatives and their contact information can be found on the website.

responsibilities

ELASA representatives play a vital role in fostering communication and growth within the community. Besides promoting ELASA in their home countries, their responsibility is to attend plenary sessions, stay in contact with participants, organise financial support, contribute to working groups, mentor new representatives and assist event organisers. Additionally, they may help manage institutional knowledge to ensure smooth operations. Their engagement keeps ELASA active and thriving!

election process

The representatives are elected in a community based decision and if necessary, changed, at the annual plenary, in order to ensure that each country is represented and up to date. Taking on responsibilities is entirely voluntary, however becoming a representative means knowing the responsibilities listed above. Potential representatives should have attended at least one meeting and should be able to uphold the responsibility for at least one year.



meetings

Meetings are the primary platform for ELASA collaboration. They provide opportunities for exploring landscape architecture in diverse contexts while fostering international student relationships.

Our meetings emphasize the values of community, cooperation, and experimental learning. The focus is on connecting students across Europe and immersing them in landscape architecture in practical and creative ways, through hands-on workshops, outdoor explorations, and cultural experiences. ELASA relies on the values and missions of our community. Participants are responsible for the success of every meeting.

Traditionally, each meeting has a theme which sets the direction for the event. Information about past meetings can be accessed on the website.

Each year ELASA members hold two meetings. The annual meeting generally varies between one or two weeks in summer, fit for exploring more complex topics. It hosts around 50 students or more. The mini-meeting is traditionally held in spring, it lasts around five days to a week and usually focuses on one topic/place. Usually around 25 people attend.

The common language of ELASA meetings is English, therefore it is expected that participants have sufficient knowledge to be able to fully participate in the event.

individual programmes

Participants can expect to take part in site visits, workshops, lectures, presentations, discussions and more. The schedule and the programme is entirely up to the organizing team, with exception to the introduction, the annual plenary, as well as the international dinner.

There is no expectation for the event to be formal or professional. Unusual options, such as a week-long hike, or on-site work are also welcome. Workshops results and other products are presented during the meeting. The aim is to provide alternative study methods to those utilized at most universities.

meeting sites

ELASA meetings can take many different forms. It can be a travelling phenomenon or become a stationary camp; it can take place in nature, in an urban environment or anywhere in between, as long as a landscape architecture theme is applicable.

The annual meeting usually takes place in multiple locations, often in different cities, to give participants a chance to get to know the country.

As humans and landscape architects, protecting the environment is our responsibility. It is therefore crucial as participants and organisers to do our best to reduce our footprint and to choose sustainability over consumption.

accommodation & food

Communal living is to be expected. As budgets, locations and circumstances of each meeting are vastly different, no comfort levels can be assumed. All participants are notified in advance if any special equipment is required.

Food is usually organised with regards to dietary preferences, if specified in advance by participants. Reusable dishes and cutlery as a sustainable option is preferred.

plenary

A plenary is held during the annual meeting. Everybody at a meeting is expected to take part in the event but it is also available online for all representatives and everyone else interested. The platform and date for the plenary is communicated ahead of time.

Student representatives are expected to take part in each and every plenary, in person or online. The plenary is a place for reflection and discussion. Achievements from the past year are shared along with current problems and future plans. Future host countries are chosen at the plenaries, preferably at least two years in advance to



ensure sufficient time for organizing matters.

A second, online plenary is to be held in the last quarter of the year. This is necessary for transparent communication and mid-year reports.

application

The organizing team decides the total number of participants based on the circumstances and the possibilities. Usually around 50 students attend the annual meeting and around 25 the mini-meeting, however available places vary each year.

The application opens with sufficient time provided for participants to arrange travel and visa.

Applications are evaluated by the organizing team on the following basis; order of application, equal balance between new and old ELASA members, as many countries represented as possible. Preference is given to current students and those who have graduated within two years. PhD students are welcome to apply.

payment

The participation fee is to be paid in advance and covers the following: food at least twice a day, accommodations, transportation during the event.

Fees usually range between €300-500 depending on different payment groups. These groups are based on countries' GDP per capita. An additional €15 will be allocated to the ELASA funds to support necessary payments and future events.

Travel to and from the event, personal spendings, and insurance are not included and should be arranged individually. After payment is received, confirmation is sent by the organisers.

Don't hesitate to reach out to your representative for information on receiving financial aid.



contact

website /elasa.org/

mailing list

The mailing list is one of the primary channels for official communication. Information regarding meetings, opportunities and events, as well as organizational updates are sent. Sign up to the mailing list on the website.

whatsapp /[join here/](#)

In 2024 a community group was created on Whatsapp to ensure seamless and casual communication between meetings. The community includes separate groups according to the needed purpose.

instagram /elasa.media/

facebook page /[elasa/](#)

Not in active use according to 2025 April. Mirroring the posts on Instagram.

linkedin /[European Landscape Architecture Student Association/](#)