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APA Division of International Psychology: A Brief Overview  
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On February 21, 1997, the leaders of the American Psychological Association approved a new division 52, "International Psychology," after many years of planning. Its mission is to "further the development and advancement of international relations among psychologists in the areas of sharing knowledge, encouraging visitation, and encouraging intercultural research and development in clinical practice, and to promote the general objectives of the APA."

During its first five years, 52 proved an unusually active division within APA in several ways. (1) It published a superb newsletter under Editor Ivan Kos, *The International Reporter*, which offers original articles by top psychologists and others that are available nowhere else, about psychology around the world. (2) It formed a website under webmasters William Masten and Mustafa Baloglu, [www.apa.org/divisions/52](http://www.apa.org/divisions/52), which offers up-to-date news for members. (3) It offers a webboard and several listservs for its members, students, affiliates, officers. (4) It offers a lively program at the APA meeting each August, where members and others can present their work. Its first APA program in 1998 featured 120 presenters from 39 nations. (5) Each year 52 accepts nominations for its annual awards for excellence: international psychologist, mentor, student researcher, dissertation researcher, researcher on women/gender. (6) It offers its members active involvement in important projects, a network of International Liaisons chaired by Michael Stevens, and discounts on books or other products for members.

From the start, 52 enjoyed the active support of APA leaders, including its Chief Executive Officer Raymond D. Fowler. Four of the first seven Presidents of 52 had been Presidents of the entire APA (marked by \* here): Presidents Ernst Beier, Florence Denmark,\* Gloria Gottsegen, Frank Farley,\* Charles Spielberger,\* Harold Takooshian, Richard Velayo, Norman Abeles.\* This new Division works closely with the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP), formed in 1944, by allowing psychologists and students from the USA and around the world to join the International Division and become active for a modest annual fee. In 2003 this fee was \$10 for students, \$20 for professionals.

Today 52 stands out as one of six international membership organizations, each with its own unique mission (Overmier & Overmier, 2003):

2. IAAP (formed in 1920) is the International Association of Applied Psychology. It currently numbers 2,000 members world-wide, offers a quarterly journal (*Applied Psychology: An International Review*), and a quadrennial congress. ([www.iaapsy.org](http://www.iaapsy.org)).

3. ICP (1941) is the International Council of Psychologists. It currently numbers 1,500 members world-wide, offers a quarterly newsletter (*International Psychologist*), and an annual convention. ([www.icppsyh.tripod.com](http://www.icppsyh.tripod.com)).

4. IACCP (1972) is the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology. It currently numbers 800 members, offers a bimonthly *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, and a biennial meeting. ([www.iaccp.org](http://www.iaccp.org)).

5. IUPsyS (1951) is the International Union of Psychological Sciences. It is a union of 64 member nations (no individual members), publishes the *International Journal of Psychology*, and hosts a quadrennial International Congress of Psychology. ([www.iupsys.org](http://www.iupsys.org)).

6. IPSO (1999) is the International Psychology Student Organization, an emerging new group composed of students across many nations. ([www.psychologystudents.org](http://www.psychologystudents.org)).

For details on the APA International Division, check its website, [www.tamu-commerce.edu/orgs/div52](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/orgs/div52).

Reference: Overmier, J.B., & Overmier, J. (2003). *Psychology: IUPsyS Global Resource CD 2003*. East Sussex: Psychology Press. ([www.psycpress.co.uk](http://www.psycpress.co.uk)).