

ePIC Authorship Discussion

Continued from July 16 Meeting

Sept 1st, 2026

Proxies

- Jaro Bielcik (CTU Prague) for Jana Bielcikova (NPI)
- Roman Dzhygadlo for Jochen Schwiening (GSI)
- Pietro Antonioli for Roberto Preghenella (INFN Bologna)

6-month rule for ePIC authorship

- Both the Publication policy and the Membership policy (next page) state that an author must have worked on ePIC for 6 months.
- Neither membership or publication policy specifies when the 6-month clock is set.
- A reasonable choice is to start the clock when the paper is released to the collaboration. In the case of the ESR, the author list was compiled in June and the paper with the author list was released to the collaboration the first week of July.
- All collaborators that joined in 2026 are ineligible to be authors.
- Currently this excludes 71 collaborators from authorship.
- Should we consider a modified policy for the ESR ?

Publication Policy

5.1 General paper authorship

An official ePIC Author List will be maintained by the Publication Committee and published on the ePIC Author List website.

At least once per year, the Spokesperson shall solicit an author list from each institution via the ePIC council representative. Inclusion in the institution's author list implies that the individual must have worked on ePIC for at least six months and must be 'in good standing' according to the membership rules. In general, collaborators on an institution's author list are encouraged to contribute to some aspect of the design, construction, and operation of ePIC. Authors who have been collaborators for at least one full year will remain on the institution's author list for one year after leaving the Collaboration. Changes to the institution's author list may be made between annual solicitations by communicating these to the Publication Committee by email.

Membership Policy

Section 3

New institutions will be admitted as a member institute without signing status (with their members thus initially ineligible for ePIC authorship, talks, and leadership positions). An institution will obtain signing status based on an initial review of its proposed institutional commitment, typically after 6 months (a duration which can be shortened with eMC approval, e.g. based on a major hardware or software contribution) and then only upon request by their institutional CC representative(s). After this, they follow the normal annual ePIC review

Section 5

status. Collaborators joining after that date can obtain **authorship** status upon completion of an initial period of membership that contributes to the success of the ePIC Collaboration. This initial period of membership is expected to be at least 6 months of engaged participation and contribution to ePIC, but shorter durations can be envisioned during the early phases of the experiment. At the end of the 6 month period (or earlier, if an exception is granted by the eMC),

- To date, the CC has not been requested to review any of the members from the new institutions, so this procedure has not been implemented.
- **We propose that all requests for authorship from collaborators that joined after early January be treated as a "request for review" and for the ESR we will review all of these requests.**
- We will only consider requests that came before the July 20th author-list discussion deadline.
- This would potentially result in the promotion of 5 collaborators to authorship status.

Collaborator status in ePIC for undergraduate students.

Charter v2 Section 4.1.2

The number of Institute Representatives of each Member Institution depends on the number of Collaborators at the Member Institution and is defined below. **Collaborators can include PhD scientists, graduate students, engineers, and other technical staff.** Collaborators with multiple affiliations select one Member Institution to represent them in the CC.

This language implies that undergraduate students cannot be members of ePIC institutions and therefore do not hold either collaborator or authorship status.

Charter v2 Section 4.4.3

On individual papers, exceptional authorship can be granted to individuals who contributed substantially to the publication. Typically, these include past Collaborators ... Other examples include undergraduate students or other individuals who contributed substantially to a specific paper or analysis.

This language supports the conclusion that undergraduate students cannot be authors by default. However, it is not clear if the charter intended to also prohibit collaborator status for undergraduates.

Collaborator status in ePIC for undergraduate students.

Membership Policy v1.1 Section 4

Some members of any particular group may not need to become members with authorship status, e.g. undergraduate students or technical staff. Those contributions are credited towards the total FTE for an institution while not increasing the number of authors.

This language assumes that undergraduates have collaborator status. The same is anticipated in the new membership policy proposal below :

Membership Policy v2.2 Section 6 .1

Graduate and undergraduate students are subject to the same requirements. Contributions related to thesis work may be verified by the supervisor in coordination with the relevant Activity Coordinator.

Clearly the contributions from undergraduates, and mentors that work with them, need to be included in institutional SOS, but it isn't clear from the charter how this should be implemented.

Collaborator status in ePIC for undergraduate students.

We propose to charge the membership committee to consider this issue, suggesting the following possible solutions:

1. Propose an amendment to the charter that explicitly states that undergraduates may be members of ePIC institutions and can therefore gain collaborator status, allowing contributions from undergraduate students, as well as the effort devoted to mentoring them to be naturally be included in the SoS. In this case the committee should also consider the Implications of additional collaborators for the total number of CC reps.
2. Propose an amendment that states that in exceptional cases, e.g. undergraduate student efforts, ePIC resources can be shared with non-collaborators. In this case the committee needs to propose a technical solution that would allow undergraduate contributions and undergraduate mentoring efforts to be incorporated into the SoS without undergraduates holding collaborator status.

Thank you for your engagement on these important issue.