



LEVEL 3: UNIT RESOURCES

Engage > Support the New Member > Developing Understanding

Introduction

The new member (Initiate or Exalteé) has just entered a new world and requires assistance to guide them while they take the initial steps on their masonic journey. This can be achieved by appointing a member of the Unit to take on this responsibility acting as their Personal Mentor. Thought also needs to be given as to who is best suited to undertake this important role

There are excellent examples of template letters that a new member can be given which explain basics of the Unit, such as how subscriptions work, dates of meetings (and encouraging them to block them out in diaries), and making sure the new member is not left alone at a meeting.

From their first meeting, the new member is presented with a huge amount of information. They will want to make sense of this and learn at their own pace and in their own way about the organisation they have joined. While a lot of written and video material is available to them, it is important that they can be guided through it by a Personal Mentor who understands their interests and the priorities of their Lodge / Chapter. It is essential that information is shared at the right pace and that the individual is not overwhelmed.

Overview of Freemasonry

Introduction

When a new member is initiated or exalted, it is important that they understand that they are part of an organisation with four stages. A sponsor or personal mentor may find these points helpful in helping the new member gain an initial understanding.

Entered Apprentice

- Overview
 - The First Degree, or Entered Apprentice, marks the initiation of a candidate into Freemasonry. The ceremony involves a series of symbolic actions and teachings that emphasise the values of self-improvement and the pursuit of knowledge. The candidate is blindfolded to represent a state of ignorance, and upon being initiated, they are symbolically brought into the light of Masonic knowledge.
- Key lessons and teachings
 - During this degree, the candidate is introduced to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, including the importance of morality, charity, and brotherly love.
- Resources for further study
 - [Welcome Apprentice | Solomon](#)



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Fellow Craft

- Overview
 - The Second Degree, or Fellow Craft, builds upon the lessons learned in the First Degree. In this degree, the candidate is encouraged to further their understanding of the liberal arts and sciences, which are essential for personal development and enlightenment. The ceremony includes symbolic representations of the journey of life and the importance of education and wisdom.
- Key lessons and teachings
 - The candidate is taught about the significance of the working tools of a Fellow Craft, which serve as metaphors for the skills and virtues necessary for a well-lived life.
- Resources for further study
 - [Welcome Fellowcraft | Solomon](#)

Master Mason

- Overview
 - The Third Degree, or Master Mason, is the culmination of the Craft degrees. This degree focuses on themes of mortality, resurrection, and the importance of legacy. The candidate undergoes a dramatic and profound ceremony that teaches the values of sacrifice, integrity, and the pursuit of truth.
- Key lessons and teachings
 - The lessons imparted in this degree encourage the Master Mason to reflect on their own life and the impact they have on others, reinforcing the idea of living a life of purpose and honour.
- Resources for further study
 - [Welcome Master Mason | Solomon](#)

Royal Arch

- Overview
 - The Royal Arch completes the journey begun in the Craft degrees, providing deeper insights into Masonic teachings and symbolism. It explores the themes of discovery and the search for truth, particularly in relation to the rebuilding of King Solomon's Temple. The candidate is introduced to additional symbols and allegories that enhance their understanding of the Masonic journey.
- Key lessons and teachings
 - The Royal Arch emphasises the importance of fellowship and the collective pursuit of knowledge, encouraging members to support one another in their quest for enlightenment and moral rectitude.
 - Resources for further study [Welcome Companion | Solomon](#)