

Harvard Alumni Association Shared Interest Group (SIG) FAQ

WHAT IS A SIG? Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) are recognized communities of University-wide alumni who actively engage around a central unifying purpose, mission, background, or activity beyond class affiliation, School, or regional proximity. HAA SIGs are independent alumni-led organizations that are recognized by and work in partnership with the HAA.

WHAT SIGS EXIST? There are dozens of HAA SIGs, including such varied groups as Harvard Asian-American Alumni Alliance, Harvard Alumni for Agriculture, Harvard Alumni for Mental Health, and Harvard-Radcliffe Science Fiction Alumni Networking Society. [Explore the SIG Directory](#) to learn more.

WHY JOIN A SIG? SIGs offer opportunities to grow personal and professional connections with alumni who share your interests, identities, profession and/or avocations; access professional resources and a network of alumni both in and beyond your geographic region; engage in intellectual enrichment and community service; and stay connected to Harvard and the alumni community.

WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMMING/ACTIVITIES DO SIGS OFFER? The scope of SIG programming varies from group to group but, in all instances, such activities are organized around the interests of the SIG's membership. SIGs are virtual in scope, so they typically hold virtual programming throughout the year. Some SIGs have regional chapters where they host in-person events in areas with a high concentration of members.

HOW ARE SIGs DIFFERENT FROM HARVARD CLUBS? Both Harvard Clubs and Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) are independent, alumni-led organizations that connect alumni to each other and to Harvard. While Harvard Clubs are geography-based local communities, SIG communities are based in shared interests, identities, professions and/or avocations.

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT SIGS IN MY AREA? SIGs are global organizations that engage with their members online and, in areas where there is a critical mass of alumni, in person. As such, while a SIG can be said to "exist" anywhere it has members, in-person activities tend to be limited geographically to areas where it has a significant concentration of members or a particular tie to a given location (e.g., Harvardwood being centered in and around Los Angeles). A number of SIGs have local chapters and representatives that serve as a vehicle for connecting members in a specific geographic area.

HOW DO I JOIN A SIG? Each SIG has its own policies and procedures for registration of new members (including payment of modest dues in a few cases) all as set forth on its web page. [View the full list of SIGs](#) along with links to their websites.

HOW DO HARVARD CLUBS AND SIGS COLLABORATE? Harvard Clubs and HAA SIGs often work together to collaborate on or cross-promote programming. In addition, SIGs and Clubs regularly partner on such annual events as the HAA's Global Networking Night, Welcome to Your City, and various intellectual programs.