

WHY JOIN

FAQs?

2020



UFO
FREIGHT



“ Before joining UFO, we had almost resigned ourselves to always subcontracting our shipments to the big ‘you know who’s’ of this industry. In the process, we not only got short-changed on commissions but were also rewarded with a sometimes very shoddy service! Then we got wind of UFO and suddenly a new and exciting way of doing business began for us. ”

VISION FREIGHT,
ZIMBABWE

Frequently asked questions

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How long has the network been running?

UFO was founded in January 2000 by Rachel Crawford, who has been involved in the development and management of international freight forwarder networks since 1998. [Read more.](#)

Can I see a current list of Members?

Yes, a full list of our Members can be found [through our website.](#)

“ UFO has helped our company develop a network of agents and friends in the world and it has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars of revenue to us, as well as helped us build up our company whereby we now have over 10 offices. There is no doubt in my mind that our successful achievements would not have been possible without UFO membership and the dedication and professionalism that the management team put into it! ”

EXPRESS AIR FREIGHT,
USA



How do you select your Members?

Members are selected due to their excellent reputations within the industry, their accreditation by international authorities and have passed a strict entry procedure. Recommendations from existing Members are preferred due to the valuable prior trading experience. However, we also search for suitable companies in vacant locations. Our Recruitment Team bring a huge amount of experience in how to select the right companies who will become active and valuable Members of our organisation.



Where is your Head Office based?

Universal Freight Organisation is a Limited company (Reg # 3966794) based in the UK. The company is VAT registered (175463684) and has the following certifications: ISO 9001 Reg No 202250 and ISO 14001 Reg No 205242.

How many Members do you allow in each country?

Just 1 per country! UFO is one of the only remaining freight forwarder networks that has maintained its 'one company per country' exclusive policy (with the exception of USA and China). Our Biennial Meetings are a unique opportunity for our Members to be the only representative from their country in the room.



BEIJING

20TH ANNIVERSARY NETWORK MEETING 2020

19-21 APRIL 2020

Since initiating market reforms in 1978, China's GDP growth has averaged nearly 10% a year, the fastest sustained expansion by a major economy in history. With a history stretching back 3,000 years, China's capital is among the most exciting cities to hold our meeting as we celebrate our organisation's 20th Anniversary (UFO was born on 6 April 2000).

Sunday 19 April 2020

07:30 – 13:00 Mutianyu Great Wall Tour
16:50 – 21:30 Golden Mask Show & Dinner

Monday 20 April 2020

09:30 – 17:00 1-2-1 Meetings
19:00 – 22:00 Gala Dinner with Band

Tuesday 21 April 2020

09:30 – 17:00 1-2-1 Meetings

Therefore, we are delighted to announce that the 2020 Meeting will be held from 19-21 April 2020 at the InterContinental Beijing Sanlitun, just 22 km from the international airport and with the best of Beijing's western-style dining, bars and nightlife literally on its doorstep.

We have an exciting schedule planned with an optional tour on Sunday morning to the Mutianyu Great Wall, which has breath-taking scenery but less tourists – perfect! Once there you can take a ride in a cable car, chairlift or toboggan. We will arrive back at the hotel at 13:00 so that you can have lunch at your leisure.

We have arranged a fantastic start to our main event, with a change from our usual schedule. We will all meet at 16:45 on Sunday and leave the hotel together to watch the famous Golden Mask Dynasty Show from the best seats in the theatre. Have you seen the reviews on TripAdvisor? It is a must-see! Then we will go to Si Ji Min Fu, a highly acclaimed Peking duck restaurant (vegetarian dishes also available). We will return back to the hotel by 21:30 so that you can carry on your evening at the nearby bars or recover from jetlag in the comfort of your room.

On Monday, we will open the meeting doors at 09:00 for a prompt 09:30 start. During the 1-2-1 meetings, delegates can highlight their specialist areas, discuss cross trade, existing and new business as well as information regarding their country's regulations and requirements.

In the evening, we will regroup at 19:00 for a fantastic Gala Dinner with a live band and will hold our 2020 Award Ceremony. We will enjoy a Chinese/Western buffet dinner with an open bar of wine, beer, orange juice and soft drinks. We look forward to our Biennial conga dance, which started in 2009 in Cambodia!



Where will your next meeting be held?

Full details of upcoming meetings can be found **through our website**. The 2020 Meeting will be in China...

How do you ensure a high standard of members?

We continually monitor the quality of service of our Members to ensure that we have recruited the right companies who perform in a conscientious, diligent and professional manner. Our Quality Control Survey asks for our Members' opinion on the level of service that their fellow overseas partners are providing. Poor performance will not be tolerated within the network.



Do you pass on Quote Requests?

Due to our continued efforts with search engine optimisation and advertising, we aim to drive new business to our Members. Our website is not only visited by forwarders looking for fellow agents, but also for customers looking for quotes. All leads received from our **Quote Request** facility are forwarded directly to our Members.

Do you offer Payment Protection and/or Insurance?

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer Member-to-Member payment protection and/or insurance. Our Members are privately owned, independent companies that are more than capable of using their own normal commercial caution and practices to reduce risks.

Do you have a Smartphone site?

Yes, we acknowledge the growth in mobile devices but connection speeds can sometimes be slow so navigating through websites to get to the required page can be frustrating! We want UFO Members to have a great experience with our website, whether on a large PC screen or on their mobile device. Therefore, we provide a password protected Smartphone Service (m.ufofreight.com), which enables the contact details of fellow partners to be found quickly on mobile devices.



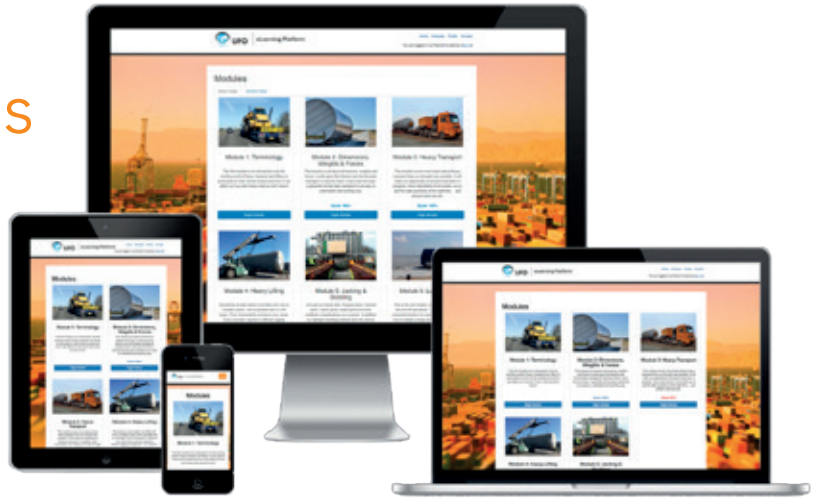
Do you have a company video?

Yes, [click here](#) to view our online video.



Do you offer any Training Programmes for your Members?

Yes. One of the main challenges in our industry is the lack of training and staff development, especially with new and young staff members. During 2017, we launched a bespoke **eLearning Platform**, incorporating a comprehensive 5 module online training program. Each registered user receives a personal log-in so that they can train at their own pace. When the training is completed, the user will understand the practical, operational and engineering aspects the specific topic and will be able to ask pertinent questions at the relevant time and understand the industry terminology.



Do you publish a Newsletter?

Yes, UFO issues a **Digital Newsletter** every 3 months, provided free of charge and no payment is made for any articles. Each issue includes articles on Member's shipments, staff changes, the latest companies to join, reminders of membership tools, official updates, features etc.



“ Meeting every UFO partner in person has become a special tool. We can tell our customers more about them, even though they may be in a distant country. Our customers recognise our closeness, friendship and our strong business relationships and this gives them confidence and security. ”

CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL,
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC





“ Since joining UFO, our business has grown in the international market as well as at a national level. We are able to offer total logistics with worldwide coverage and we can guarantee to the customer that we have partner offices in 120+ countries. The importance of UFO

Membership is one Member per country (the other networks do not offer this) and UFO is an ISO certified network. ”

GREEN CHANNEL, INDIA



Can I list more than one Office in a country?

Yes, the profile pages in our Members Area enable companies to list as many branch offices and staff within same country as they wish at no extra charge.

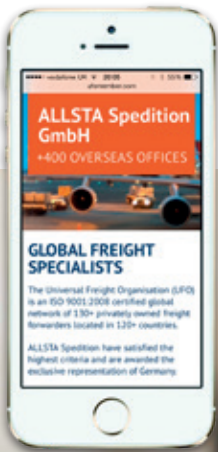
Can I promote Offices in other countries?

Rule #6 of our **Membership Rules** states “Members may not promote within the UFO (an) office(s), either as a member or not, either wholly or partly owned or not, in any area where a UFO member already exists.”. This rule is strictly enforced so that Member’s representations are protected and to avoid any hostility within our friendly group.

Do you offer Marketing & News services?

Yes, as our network is predominantly about acquiring, building and maintaining business relationships, we offer our Members a news service. We prepare an online article which is then published in our **Latest News** section. This service provides Members with the opportunity to promote their company and enables everyone to keep up-to-date with news from their overseas partners. Each article appears automatically on both our website and Smartphone Service and are also published on **LinkedIn** in order to reach a wider global audience. News articles related to each company are also available on their individual company page in our Members Area and on their dedicated brochure website.





Do you provide Sales and Marketing material?

Yes, UFO provides **brochure websites**, customised for each of our Members and based on a company specific URL. The brochure websites showcase online the huge potential that UFO and its Member have for supplying complete logistics solutions. We have created the sites in a collapsing responsive design so that it scales on smartphone/mobile devices automatically. An exciting feature is the ability for Members to post their company news to the sites. Members may also request a copy of our Marketing Brochure, which will be edited with their company details and emailed in PDF format ready for printing.



Do you have any Membership Rules?

Abidance of our **Membership Rules** is essential for the professional and efficient operation of UFO and its Members. Any official complaints are reviewed in accordance with our ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 approved procedures and all final decisions are reached fairly and consistently, without bias or prejudice, in representing the interests of UFO and its Members.



How much business will I receive?

It is difficult for us to determine how much business joining UFO would bring to your company. Also, we prefer not to ask our Members this question as we want to avoid recruiting companies that are solely looking for increased incoming business. We want new Members to become active participants in our network and to promote their company and services in order to increase inter-trade.



What are the application requirements?

Full completion of our **Application Form** together with 2 references from forwarders who have acted as agents within the past year. Each applicant is also required to provide a recent case study (including photos) of an interesting shipment they have handled.



Do you have an Invoice System?

Our bespoke Payment Monitoring System has been developed to ensure smooth cash flow between UFO Members and to prevent late payments. Once logged in, each Member can add, view and edit details of outstanding invoices within our network. The system sends a 'Statement of Accounts' to each Member every 2 weeks highlighting due dates. We are proud to say that we have an excellent payment record within UFO. Our Members understand that paying on time and operating in a professional manner results in repeat business and excellent relations with their overseas partners.

Will I have to terminate current relations with agents?

Our Members are not required to annul established agency relationships. We simply ask that all new business is first offered to fellow UFO Members for quoting, it is then up to them to provide excellent rates and services to win the business.

What is the cost of membership?

Our Members simply pay an Annual Fee dependent on your location with a one-off Joining Fee. Plus, our current campaign offers two years' membership for the cost of one.

Can I have a free trial?

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer free trial memberships.



“Everybody works for the same end product, generating business for and with other members; exclusive membership makes the bond between members that much closer. Since joining, the network has helped us grow as a business and now forms an integral part of our day-to-day operations.”

BIBBY INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS, UK





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FREIGHT**

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