



AMERICAN  
**mensa**  
LTD.

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# HISTORY OF MENSA

## Meaning of Mensa

Mensa is an international society in which the only qualification for membership is a score in the top two percent of the general population on an accepted, standardized intelligence test.

The word *mensa* has a triple meaning in Latin of “mind, table, month,” which suggests a monthly meeting of minds around a table.

## Founding of Mensa

Mensa was founded in Great Britain in 1946 by two English barristers, Roland Berrill and Dr. Lionel Ware.

Internationally, there are 100,000 members representing over 100 countries, with the Mensa International headquarters in London.

## Founding of American Mensa

American Mensa was founded in 1960. The first meeting took place on September 30, 1960, at the Brooklyn home of Peter and Ines Sturgeon with five other members.

By 1963, the organization had grown to 1,000 members. As of March 2004, American Mensa had more than 50,000 members. Its national office is located in Arlington, Texas.

## Purposes of Mensa

Mensa has three purposes, which are outlined in its Constitution. They are:

1. To identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity.
2. To encourage research into the nature, characteristics and uses of intelligence.
3. To provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

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