

# Controls for onboarding prospective members

01/06/2025 2:07 pm PST

Group [admins](#) on Heylo have ultimate control over who can join their group.

## Automatic approval

New members can join the group without admin approval.

## Manual approval

Prospective members are individuals who have requested to join a manual approval group. When someone requests to join, they are prompted to complete their profile by providing information to help admins meet them before granting approval.

Admins receive a badge indicating the presence of a pending member request on the members tab. Additionally, if opted-in for [push notifications](#), a notification is sent when a new request is submitted.

Any admin in the group can accept or reject membership requests. If a request is rejected, the prospective member is not notified but can reapply at a later time.

Furthermore, admins have the option to [direct message](#) prospective members. This allows admins to ask follow-up questions or request additional verification before making a decision. By communicating directly with a prospective member, admins can gather any necessary information to maintain the community's quality standards.

## Require Profile Photo

Regardless of approval settings, admins have the option to **require a profile photo** for members joining. When this requirement is enabled, a new member must upload a profile photo before joining the group. This added step helps enhance trust and accountability within the group by ensuring that every member can be easily identified.

If a profile photo requirement is enabled, existing members are not required to upload a photo.

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