

The Major Photographic Distinctions Available to Amateur UK Photographers

The Royal Photographic Society

www.rps.org

You do not have to be a member of the RPS in order to apply for a distinction, but annual membership fees apply once a distinction has been gained. For 2014 the Annual fee is £114. These fees have to be maintained, otherwise you forfeit the right to your distinction. It is a good idea to download the 'Distinctions Handbook' from the RPS website. A monthly magazine included is in your annual subscription.

LRPS

Licentiate: A panel of 10 images.

Fee is £55

ARPS

Associate: A panel of 15 images in chosen Specialist Category + Statement of Intent.

Fee is £85

FRPS

Fellow: A panel of 20 images in chosen Specialist Category + Statement of Intent. Must have gained ARPS first.

Fee is £100

There are other ways of gaining RPS distinctions, including AV sequences. [Check the handbook](#), as there are many regulations to be followed. It is a good idea to apply early for any distinction, as there are only a handful of assessment days per year, and these are often over-subscribed.

British Photographic Exhibitions (Crown Awards Scheme)

www.b-p-e.org.uk
(Lists all exhibitions and provides links.)

A point is awarded for each acceptance in a recognised British exhibition, or two points for every section at which you are a BPE exhibition judge. There is no charge for these distinctions, but you have to pay to enter exhibitions. Details are available from the BPE website.

BPE 1*

25 acceptances.

BPE2*

50 acceptances.

BPE3*

100 acceptances.

BPE4*

200 acceptances.

BPE5*

300 acceptances.

Once **BPE5*** has been gained, it is possible to work towards becoming an Associate (ABPE) and Fellow (FBPE).

The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

www.pagb-photography-uk.co.uk

There are fees for applying for distinctions, but once obtained, distinctions are for life.

CPAGB

Credit: 10 images of 'Good Club Photography' standard. Fee is £60. Must be affiliated club member for min. of 2 years.

DPAGB

Distinction: 15 images of 'Open Exhibition Photography' standard. Fee is £75. Must be affiliated club member for min. of 3 years.

MPAGB

Master: 20 images of 'The Highest Standard of Amateur Photography'. Fee is £95. Must be affiliated club member for min. of 5 years plus hold DPAGB for min. of 11 months.

The distinctions can also be obtained with AV sequences. Rules and restrictions apply: [Check the PAGB Photographic Merit notes](#).

There is also an APAGB (Associate) awarded for services to photography.

It is a good idea to apply early for any distinction, as there are only a handful of assessment days per year, and these are often over-subscribed.

International Federation of Photographic Art

www.entryforms-fiap.net
(Lists all salons and provides links.)

The acronym FIAP stands for 'Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographie' - this body brings together photographers world-wide, through a series of international salons (exhibitions).

Any distinction gained is for life, but there are fees for all salons entered. There is also a fee for ratifying your proposal for a distinction.

Some salons circulate your entry to other salons - The 'Finland Circuit' for example, enters your work in 5 separate salons.

N.B. A 'Circuit' only counts as 1 salon, but **all** acceptances from each salon of the circuit can be added to your total. (Confusing, isn't it?)

AFIAP

Artist: 40 acceptances from 15 different works in 15 different salons in 8 different countries. At least 4 acceptances must be prints.

EFIAP

Excellence: 250 acceptances with 50 different works in 30 different salons in 20 different countries. At least 25 acceptances must be prints.

EFIAP/b

Bronze: 75 acceptances with at least 25 different works.

EFIAP/s

Silver: 150 acceptances with at least 50 different works.

EFIAP/g

Gold: 300 acceptances with at least 100 different works.

EFIAP/p

Platinum: 600 acceptances with at least 200 different works.

MFIAP

Master Photographer: Photographers who have attained EFIAP status can apply for this distinction with prints or AV work.

(An explanatory booklet is available from FIAP.)

Applicants for the EFIAP Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum must be holders of the basic EFIAP or MFIAP, and are required to achieve the above minima with all new work.

There are two awards for services to photography: ESFIAP (Excellence for services rendered FIAP), HonEFIAP (Honorary Excellence FIAP).

Rules vary from one salon to another, and categories can also be different. (Open Colour, Creative, Colour Portrait, Natural History, etc.)

You can normally enter up to 4 images per category. Be sure to read the rules and conditions for each exhibition you enter.

Once you have prepared your entry, submit it before the closing date. (Salons are spread out over the year, so there's lots of time to prepare.)

Prints are the biggest problem, but a recent development is, that in some cases, they do not have to be mounted. Also, there is a trend towards unmounted prints not being returned, as this saves a lot of work for the salon organisers. Not all salons have a print section.

The most common format is PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGES, and these are usually submitted in the form of a CD Rom. However, many exhibitions now let you submit your entry on line. This is very simple and quick to do, and you normally pay for your entry using PayPal.

The downside of this is: because it is so convenient, more and more people are entering, so the competition to get acceptances is becoming more fierce.

Slides have all but disappeared from salons. The format for PDIs varies, but is normally 1024X768 or 1400X1050 pixels, jpeg, in sRGB colour space.

Keep accurate records of your acceptances and awards, you will need them when applying for a BPE or FIAP distinction.

With the exception of the RPS, you must be a member of a Photographic Club affiliated to the PAGB, in order to try for distinctions.

There are other photographic bodies who award distinctions, such as the PSA and the UPI.

The above information was researched by Steve Lloyd, who accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies!