

Overview of available distinctions in the UK

The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

<http://www.thepagb.org.uk/>

The PAGB offer 3 levels of distinction, charges apply for each as set out below. Once obtained, the distinction levels are retained for life. For more information you can visit the PAGB website and download their Information Leaflets.

CPAGB Credit - 10 images of 'Good Club Photography' standard. The fee for this is £60 (£50 for resubmission)
Scoring 200 points or more gains award.

DPAGB Distinction - 15 images of 'Open Exhibition Photography' standard. The fee for this is £90 (£80 for resubmission)
Scoring 300 points or more gains award.

MPAGB Master - 20 images of 'The Highest Standard of Amateur Photography'. The fee for this is £120 (£110 for resubmission)
Scoring 450 points or more gains award.

Certain rules apply for applications so you are advised to read the information leaflets carefully to ensure you qualify. The PAGB usually hold 2 assessment days per year so it's best to book early. Guidance on Print & PDI entry can be found on the website too.

The Royal Photographic Society

<http://rps.org/distinctions>

You do not have to be a member of RPS to apply for a distinction but will have to sign up should you be awarded a distinction. This must be maintained in order to retain your right to that distinction.

For more information you can download a booklet from the RPS website.

LRPS Licentiate - a panel of 10 images which reflect your ability as a photographer. The fee is £93 (£65 for members)

ARPS Associate - a panel of 15 images to form a body of work/project to a high standard plus a written statement of intent. The fee is £143 (£100 for members)

FRPS Fellow - a panel of 20/21 images to form a body of work/project to an excellent standard plus a written statement of intent. The fee is £150 and open to members only.

Other options for distinctions are available including AV entries. The RPS only run a few assessment days per year so it is advisable to apply early. The RPS are very strict on rules so please download any guides and ensure you read them carefully. Should you wish to become a member you will receive a monthly magazine as part of your annual subscription.

British Photographic Exhibitions (Crown Awards Scheme)

<http://www.britishphotographicexhibitions.org.uk/>

This particular distinction works slightly different in the fact that you enter images into recognised British exhibitions. 1 point is awarded for each acceptance, 2 points if you are a BPE judge. There are no charges for the distinctions themselves but you do have to pay to enter the exhibition. More details available on their website.

BPE 1* 25 acceptances

BPE 2* 50 acceptances

BPE 3* 100 acceptances

BPE 4* 200 acceptances

BPE 5* 300 acceptances

Upon reaching BPE 5* you may go on to further 'Premier Awards' such as ABPE & FBPE. Details of this can be found on their website under the 'Awards' section.

International Federation of Photographic Art

<https://www.fiap.net/en>

(FIAP = Federation International de l'Art Photographie)

This works in a similar way to BPE but is worldwide, entering your images in to International Salons (exhibitions). There are fees payable for entry in to each salon and further fees for your distinction proposal. Once agreed, distinctions last a lifetime.

Entry in to a 'Circuit' (multiple salons) can be quite confusing so please ensure you read any guidance notes carefully.

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.

This is a worldwide distinction program so rules differ from salon to salon. You are advised to seek the rules for each salon and read them carefully. Although prints are allowed at most salons the preferred method is digital via CD ROM or via the salons websites. Always check the method for image submittal with each salon as they do vary. With the introduction of digital submittance there has been an increase in the numbers entering so competition is fierce. For more information visit the FIAP website. Records of your acceptances must be kept. You will need this when applying for your relevant award!

You must be a member of a photographic club affiliated with PAGB to enter distinctions. The exception from this rule is the RPS.