

WHAT IS THAT ALPHABET SOUP AFTER HIS NAME?

The lecturer or judge comes to the club and the chairman in introducing him reels off a load of letters after his name. To the regular it is all clear, but to many it means very little. Remember though, he or she probably started out just like your self and worked hard to get those letters. So why can't you? Well you haven't got much chance if you don't know what they mean.

There are two types of awards. The first are those granted for achievement in photography, which generally you have to apply for. The second type of award is granted for services to photography probably over many years. These latter cannot (and must not) be applied for and are generally done by confidential recommendations.

There are a number of organisations who grant awards or distinctions and they tend to be national or international organisations. The information has therefore been set out below, organisation by organisation for the most common, RPS, PAGB, FIAP and PSA. **Please remember these are brief notes; refer to the relevant web site for full information and guidance.**

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY:- RPS

Web site:- www.rps.org

The RPS grants distinctions for three levels of achievement. You have to be an RPS member to hold any of these distinctions and you can only use them as long as you are a member of the RPS.

LRPS - Licentiate of the RPS

The first level, Licentiate is open to all members of The Royal Photographic Society. Non-members of The Society may also apply but if they are successful, the Distinction will not be approved until they have become Members. The Licentiate is awarded either for competence in practical photography, or by passing of an appropriate examination in photography recognised by The Society. Normally you will be required to submit 10 prints, or 10 slides or 10 images on CD-rom as evidence for your application in still photography. In AV you will be required submit one or more sequences lasting not less than 10 minutes.

ARPS - Associate of the RPS

Members and non-members may apply for Associateship, a more specialised Distinction. It is for a high degree of proficiency and a high technical and visual competence in particular categories. The Award will not be approved until membership is taken up. You have to submit 15 prints, Slides, images on CD-rom; or a 15 mins sequence in AV.

FRPS - Fellow of the RPS

Fellowship is the highest Distinction of The Royal Photographic Society and recognises original work and outstanding ability in a specialist field.

It is open to Associates of The Society and Fellows of the BIPP, but photographers with an established reputation may apply direct, based on their CV, references, publications and exhibitions, even if they are non-members of The Society. They still need to join to hold the distinction once awarded.

In most categories you will be required to submit either 20 prints or transparencies, or 20 minutes of Audio Visual sequence, or 20 minutes of film or video.

Hon.FRPS - Honorary Fellow of the RPS

For exceptional service this is principle award of several, made annually, which may not be applied for.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN:- PAGB

Web Site:- www.pagb-photography-uk.co.uk

PAGB Offers both Service and Merit awards, the former may not be applied for, but the latter must be.

APAGB - Associate of PAGB

This is granted to members of affiliated Federations and their clubs for prolonged outstanding service to photography. Generally at least 10 years Federation service is a minimum or at least 30 years or more at Club level is required.

Hon.PAGB - Honorary Member of PAGB

This is generally awarded for prolonged outstanding service to the PAGB usually by membership on its Executive.

CPAGB - Credit PAGB

The first of three awards for photographic merit; it is offered for what is generally interpreted as 'good class' photography. Such photographs would be of a standard whereby they might be expected to represent the club at inter-club and Federation events at least. You must have supported your Federations events for 2 years out the last 10 and must submit 10 photographs to an adjudication panels which normally convenes twice a year. You must achieve a set number of points from your images from the 6 adjudicators.

DPAGB - Distinction PAGB

This is the next one up the rung. It may be interpreted as requiring 15 photographs which are of open exhibition standard and again you have to achieve a set number of points from the panel of 6 adjudicators. You do not need to hold CPAGB to apply for this award but you must have supported Federation Competitions for at least 3 years from the last 10.

MPAGB - Master PAGB

This is the highest award for photographic merit granted by PAGB and requires the highest standard of amateur photography with each of 20 photographs likely to achieve consistent success at International Exhibition level and also likely to win at least an occasional award. Requires at least 5 years support for Federation Competitions from the last 10 and cannot be applied for until 11 months has elapsed from achieving DPAGB.

NB:-

Full details of the standing of club members regarding these merit awards are displayed on the NCPF Notice Board on Club evenings.

The Adjudications take place in each Federation Area on a rotational basis, but you can enter for any panel in any part of the country.

You are strongly advised to visit one of these adjudications before submitting any panel.

Unlike RPS Distinctions, the photographs are assessed on an individual basis, mixed in with other applicants' photographs.

The six adjudicators are drawn from the PAGB's list of accredited Judges which is to be found in the PAGB handbook, published biennially.

The Awards officer for NCPF is Mrs Jane Black, but full information can be obtained via your own club's NCPF Representative, Dave Coates

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FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE:- FIAP

Web Site:- www.fiap.net

FIAP grants two types of Award, the first for Service to photography and the second for achievement in International Exhibitions and Salons sponsored by FIAP. These latter Awards are also linked to substantial periods of active participation in such events.

Service Awards:-

ESFIAP - Excellence in Service

Awarded for substantial service at National and International level to Photography, there are never more than a handful held at any one time, rarely more than one or two per country. The fact that only fourteen have ever been issued to UK residents in over 40 years will give an idea of its standing. (cannot be applied for)

Hon.FIAP - Honorary FIAP Membership

This is an even higher award, usually given to holders of ESFIAP for prolonged service to FIAP. Four have so far been granted to UK Residents. (cannot be applied for)

International exhibition/salon achievement Awards:-

AFIAP - Artiste FIAP (amended 30/03/12)

The minimum requirements are that over a period of no less than 1 year the applicant has supported Exhibitions/Salons worldwide, has received at least 40 acceptances from 15 different images, from at 15 different salons, in at least 8 countries. A 'circuit' counts as only one salon. Entering the same salon in different year's counts as separate salons. England, Scotland and Wales count as separate countries. These conditions apply for both AFIAP and EFIAP.

EFIAP - Excellence FIAP (amended 30/03/12)

An application for EFIAP cannot be made less than 1 year after receiving AFIAP. Including those from AFIAP, applicants must have gained at least 250 Acceptances from at 50 different photographs. These must be received from at least 30 different salons in at least 20 different countries. (see AFIAP re conditions about salons & countries)

EFIAP/b - Excellence FIAP Bronze Award

EFIAP/s - Excellence FIAP Silver Award

EFIAP/g - Excellence FIAP Gold Award

EFIAP/p - Excellence FIAP Platinum Award

These further awards are subject to a scale of achievement in International Salons and Exhibitions, each over a period on no less than 1 year. Applicants must holders of EFIAP or MFIAP and are required, from all new work to achieve a minimum of achievement on an accumulating scale:-

Bronze – 75 acceptances from 25 images & submit 3 awarded prints from 3 different countries.

Silver – 150 acceptances from 50 images & submit 4 awarded prints from 4 different countries.

Gold – 300 acceptances from 100 images & submit 5 awarded prints from 5 different countries.

Platinum 600 acceptances from 200 images & submit 6 awarded prints from 6 different countries.

All AFIAP and EFIAP awards to any level can be achieved by an appropriate mix of media, ie prints, Slides Digital etc.

MFIAP - Master FIAP

Considered by many to be the highest award of its type from FIAP this can only be obtained in Prints or AV work and requires a presentation of the highest standard, which is themed and accompanied by a dissertation on the work.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA - PSA

Web site:- www.psa-photo.org

This is the one foreign national photographic organisation whose awards you are likely to come across in the UK. Northallerton CC has at least three members who are current members of PSA and there are several hundred country-wide.

They have a scale of awards for service to photography and these are granted to members of PSA who have given recognised levels of service to photography anywhere in the world. Again as with all service awards they cannot be applied for.

APSA - Associate of PSA

This is granted to PSA members of 5 years standing or more for service to photography.

FPSA - Fellowship of PSA

This is granted to holders of the APSA award to PSA members of 5 years standing or more for service to photography, since the award of APSA.

Hon.FPSA - Honorary Fellowship of PSA

This is granted to PSA members generally for very long periods of outstanding service to photography and PSA in particular.

PSA also runs an awards scheme, which recognises success in International Exhibitions and Salons sponsored by them. The basis of qualifications for these awards, called "Star Ratings" is the accumulation of specific numbers of Acceptances from specific numbers of different images. These are gained separately for a number of photographic disciplines, such as Colour Projected Images, Electronic Images, Prints, Nature, etc etc.

Each on these has it own Divisional structure. They record Exhibition results separately but have a common own scale of Star Ratings from 1 to 5, which can be applied for if you achieve the required numbers of acceptances and different pictures used, in sponsored Exhibitions in the world, which run sections for their type of photography.

The current standard requirements for each division is as follows

1 Star	18	Acceptances from	6	different photographs
2 Star	36	"	12	"
3 Star	72	"	24	"
4 Star	144	"	48	"
5 Star	288	"	96	"

There are then higher scales generally, but not exclusively called "Galaxy Ratings".

PSA does not recognise Star Rating Awards as being eligible for placing after the recipient's name, but it is a fairly common practice for them to be so used.

PPSA - Proficiency PSA

To apply for this award you have received at least 288 Acceptances from one or more division.

EPSA - Excellence PSA

To apply for this award you have received at least 700 Acceptances from one or more division.

MPSA - Master PSA

To apply for this award you have received at least 1500 Acceptances from one or more division.

GMPSA - Grand Master PSA

To apply for this award you have received at least 3000 Acceptances from one or more division.

End.