

IRISH PHOTOGRAPHIC FEDERATION DISTICTIONS

Handbook For Fellowship Applicants

Introduction

The Irish Photographic Federation awards distinctions on three levels – **Licentiate**, **Associate** and **Fellow**, in ascending order. Fellowship is the Federation's highest level.

Applying for the Fellowship

The Fellowship is awarded to a person who,

- ✓ submits a cohesive panel of 20 prints, accompanied by a written Statement of Intent stating what the panel is intended to achieve, that,
- ✓ in the opinion of a group of Assessors appointed by the IPF, all of whom will be Fellows of the IPF,
- ✓ demonstrates distinguished ability and/or style in a specialist area of photography

Who may apply for Fellowship Assessment?

Any person, whether a member of an IPF club or not, who already holds any one of the following distinctions may apply for Fellowship assessment

- Associate Irish Photographic Federation (AIPF)
- Associate/Fellow Royal Photographic Society (ARPS/FRPS)
- Distinction/Master-Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (DPAGB/MPAGB)
- Excellence/bronze-Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (EFIAP/b)
- Master-Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (MFIAP)
- Associate/Fellow Irish Professional Photographers Association (AIPPA/FIPPA)
- Photographic Society of America (PPSA+2 Stars)

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Making an Application

The Fellowship application form must be filled online. Go to www.irishphoto.ie - Distinctions – Fellow (FIPF). Please fill in all the information prompted by the form, which will include:-

- ✓ the version of your name you wish to have on your Fellowship certificate
- ✓ the subject matter of your panel (***this must be notified to ensure that your panel will be assessed by persons with specialist knowledge of your subject - see below***)
- ✓ which session you wish to apply for.(an applicant may make only one Fellowship submission at a time, and for only one session date at a time)
- ✓ if you are a member of an IPF-Affiliated club, the name of the club official who will confirm that you are an active member of that club (Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer).
- ✓ confirmation that none of the images in your panel were taken in circumstances that were set up, controlled or directed by a third party
- ✓ confirmation that none of the images in your panel were included in a successful IPF Associate or Licentiate panel

The application fee for an Fellowship distinction assessment is €100 for a member of a registered club in good standing with the IPF. Non-member applications are €120.

The fee may be paid through the application form using PayPal, or by cheque/money order/ postal order to the IPF Treasurer (address will be on the IPF website).

Application Quotas

In order to ensure the highest level of adjudication standards, the IPF sets a maximum of Associate applications for any one session, generally 10 but this may vary.

Please note that cancellations are not allowed.

Email Address

Please ensure that the email address in your application form is correct, as communications sent to you, including acknowledgement of your application, will use the address supplied.

Subject Matter

Please specify the subject matter of your panel, as the IPF will need to ensure that the assessors appointed will have the expertise required for your chosen subject.

To assist applicants, and to provide as much clarification as possible, the IPF publishes guidelines on various topics such as Natural History and Travel photography. These guidelines may be downloaded from www.irishphoto.ie . The guidelines are intended to assist photographers in putting Fellowship panels together and are in addition to, but not a replacement of, the matters outlined in this Handbook.

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Preparing your Fellowship Panel

Before submitting a panel for assessment, it is best to get advice on your images and how they may make up a successful Fellowship panel. If possible, attend a distinction assessment session or a distinction advisory session.

Show your advisors around 30 un-mounted prints, printed to the size, and paper, you intend for your panel. Print quality will be a vital element of your assessment. Do not rush your application.

The Panel:

A Fellowship application must consist of a panel of 20 prints, in colour, mono, or a combination of these. If mixing colour and mono, take care that cohesion will not be compromised. The panel cannot include images that were used in a successful IPF Associate or Licentiate panel.

Print size:

Mount size must not exceed 50cm x 40 cm. The print may be any size within this area. Purely as a guide, in or around A4 size would be considered reasonable. Basically, the size chosen should be so as to present the images to best effect and care should be taken to ensure that the prints are not so large as to compromise image quality.

Arrangement:

The prints must be presented as a cohesive panel in two rows. The panel should be accompanied by a thumbnail hanging plan (A4 size is sufficient), and the reverse of each mount should be clearly numbered to match the image on the hanging plan. Details such as author's name, title, or any descriptive text must not be shown on the front of the mount or in the print.

Presentation:

Presentation and mounting of prints should be sympathetic with the subject matter. The prints must be mounted (frames will not be accepted). Uniform mounting helps with cohesion.

Category:

While there are no constraints on choice of subject or theme the set of 20 images should be on a theme, be cohesive, and should match the objective(s) set out in the written statement.

Statement of Intent:

A written statement (max 150 words) outlining what you intended to achieve with the images is required and will be read to the assessing panel. It should be typed and included with the prints.

Things to Avoid - Some Common Reasons for Failure

- Images are not up to the required standard.
- Repetition
- Poor print quality including burnt out highlight areas.
- Lack of sharpness when correct use of sharpness would enhance the image
- Not matching written statement with the images

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Distinction Assessment Days

There are several assessment days each year. Details will be published on the IPF website, including application deadlines, which are generally set six weeks before the assessment date.

Fellowship assessments take place in front of an open audience, which will include other Fellowship candidates and probably candidates for Associate and Licentiate, and other members of IPF clubs who have come to enjoy the photography on show.

Candidates or their representatives must bring their prints to the session, at a time that will be notified to them, before judging begins. The prints must be taken away after the session.

After all assessing has concluded, including Associate and Licentiate applications, the successful candidates will be presented with certificates and Distinction pins.

The Assessing Procedure

Your Fellowship panel will be put before the assessors in accordance with your hanging plan.

The Distinctions Secretary will then read the Written Statement to the assessors, who will consider the panel as whole and examine the individual prints. In some instances, the assessors may re-arrange prints if it is considered that this will help the panel.

Next, the Chair will ask for a preliminary show of voting cards by the assessors, for them to indicate which way they are leaning, to a yes or a no. This show will not be visible to the audience and is not an actual vote. In some instances the Chair may ask individual assessors to comment on the panel before taking a final vote.

The Chair will then request a final vote, again not visible to the audience. The majority decision will prevail and if it is "yes" the author's name will be revealed.

Confidentiality:

As far as the assessors are concerned, all assessments are carried out anonymously, and a candidate's name will only be announced if the assessment is successful.

Assessors will not vote on panels by members of their own clubs, or on panels on which they have given specific advice. They will often give the appearance of being engaged in the examination of the panel, so as not to indicate their involvement to the other assessors.

Please note that the canvassing of assessors prior to an assessment session, that is assessors who will be voting, may lead to your panel being disqualified.

Comments by the Assessors:

In the event of a panel not being successful, to provide guidance to help the applicant succeed on a later occasion, an assessor will give verbal comments on why he/she feels the panel failed, while the remaining assessors will make written comments, which will be enclosed with the unsuccessful prints. The comments of individual assessors may vary from sheet to sheet.

Please note that assessors will not discuss individual results with applicants on the day.

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Referrals:

The assessors may conclude that the panel generally meets the required standard but is let down by a small number of (up to 3) images. In that event, the panel may be “referred”, with the Chair specifying which image or images should be replaced or reprinted.

This means that the panel may be re-presented with the “referred” images changed and without the other prints being replaced or the order of the panel being changed. When the referred panel again comes before the assessors, they will only examine the new prints on the basis of whether they are of Fellowship standard and appropriate to panel as a whole. If such proves to be the case, the panel will succeed. In the meantime, the identity of the author will remain anonymous.

Assessing Your Panel

Each Fellowship panel will be assessed by Fellows of the IPF, success being measured by a positive majority vote. While an assessor who comes from the same club as the applicant may appear to vote, that vote will be discounted. Please note that the canvassing of assessors prior to an assessment session may lead to your panel being disqualified.

What The Assessors Will Look For:

Quality of Communication: To what extent does the panel successfully communicate ideas, moods or feeling?

Originality: To what extent does the panel show personal engagement with the subject?

Cohesion: Is there cohesion and variety in the panel?

Artistic Input: To what extent has the photographer exploited the photographic possibilities of the subject? Has there been a sensitive treatment of light, viewpoint, composition, design, perspective? Is there imagination and creativity in the images?

Technical Ability: Are imagination and creativity present in the images?

Presentation: Are the images blemish free? Is the mounting sympathetic and appropriate?

Written Statement: The written statement sets out the rationale and projected outcome behind the panel. Does the panel deliver on this?

Things to Avoid - Some Common Reasons for Failure

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Ratification by the IPF National Council

Notwithstanding the presentation of certificates and pins, in every case and at each level, a successful assessment by the assessors takes the form of a recommendation to the IPF National Council that the appropriate distinction be awarded, which must be ratified by the National Council.

Post the Distinctions Session

Successful candidates will be asked to upload a copy of their panels for display on the IPF website.

An annual distinction holder's renewal fee of €25 (€15 for persons over 65 years) is payable to the IPF from 1st January succeeding the successful application. A lifetime fee option of €400 is also available. Fees can be paid via Paypal on the IPF website or by mail to the IPF Treasurer.

Your Fellowship is subject to the annual renewal fee (this does not apply to Lifetime distinction holders) and if the annual fee is outstanding you may not use the letters FIPF or describe yourself as an Fellow of the Irish Photographic Federation.

Replacement certificates where the error is on the part of the applicant (including illegible entry forms) will be charged at €15 per copy.

Going for the next Level

Congratulations! There isn't a next level! However, as the IPF encourages Fellows to continue to produce excellent work, and always looks forward to seeing new creative work, if you wish you may put forward a new Fellowship panel in another subject or a panel showing new insights of your successful subject.