

INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the requirements to achieve FIAP Awards. It is drawn from the official FIAP document on this subject, which contains guidance aimed at FIAP Liaison Officers' duties and procedures. Therefore, if you do rely of the FIAP document you may, as one or two have done in the past, find yourself confused as to what is required of you.

The representative for FIAP in Ireland is the person appointed by the IPF Council to be the FIAP Liaison Officer. At the time of writing this is Paul Stanley FIPF EFIAP/p ESFIAP who can be contacted via the Contact Us section of the IPF website (www.irishphoto.ie).

The Liaison Officer uses the facilities of the IPF Newsletter to keep everyone up to date on FIAP news, including changes to the requirements. I would recommend that if you have not already done so you should subscribe to the Newsletter via the IPF website.

There are fees to be paid for each distinction. These are collected by the FIAP Liaison Officer and sent to FIAP as part of Ireland's Distinction Submission.

As with all countries, Ireland has a set time each year where we can submit applications for Distinctions. In our case it is 31st March – though applications need to be with the FIAP Liaison Officer by 26th February at the latest for allow each to be checked for accuracy and consistency with these requirements.

GENERAL

At this point some explanation may well be useful. These notes apply to all applications whether for NFIAP, AFIAP, EFIAP or EFIAP Levels applications from Bronze through to Diamond 8.

COMMON FACTORS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must start with either the NFIAP Distinction or the AFIAP Distinction and must apply for each successive distinction in sequence. You cannot “leap frog” to a higher distinction and there must be at least 12 months between each application.
- An applicant must have created their own Personal Profile on the FIAP Platform (myfiap.net) and must be the holder of a FIAP Photographers Card, also obtained via the FIAP Platform. A copy/scan of that card must accompany any application for a distinction. Please refer to the “FIAP Life Card Application Process” document on the IPF website for detailed instructions on how to adhere to these requirements.
- **Titles:** - The same photograph submitted to more than one salon under FIAP Patronage or to FIAP Biennials must have the same title. Photographs without a title will not count towards distinctions.
- The acceptance a ‘series of photographs’ will only count as 1 acceptance for distinctions.
- ONLY acceptances and awards listed in the FIAP Salon database will be accepted for distinctions.
- During the period between the submission of an application for a FIAP distinction and the official response of acceptance, the author is allowed to continue participating in FIAP recognized salons. Any acceptances or awards obtained during this interim period may be used by the author in support of future distinction applications. This rule applies to the EFIAP levels prior to the EFIAP diamonds levels.

- Starting from 2026 a photo/work cannot have more than 10 acceptances/awards listed on the application form. Acceptances/awards for salons with patronage numbers earlier than 2026 can have more than 10 acceptances listed.

Acceptances: - An photograph that has been accepted by a jury for inclusion in the exhibition or catalogue. Starting from 2026 an image cannot have more than 10 acceptances/awards listed on the application form. However, acceptances/awards for salons with patronage numbers earlier than 2026 can have more than 10 acceptances listed.

Award: - Any special recognition given to a photograph by the jury of the salon in the form of a prize, medal, Honourable Mention or Diploma. These can be from any organisation – FIAP, PSA, GPU, IAAP etc.

Submitted Images: - All these distinctions require a set of images to be submitted with an application. In each case these images must come from different countries. In all cases whether exhibited as PDI or as Prints they must be submitted in jpeg format, minimum quality level 10, and a minimum of 3,600 pixels on the longest side. A copy of the Portfolio Images will be retained by the IPF for potential use as part of the IPF entry to future FIAP Biennial Exhibitions and other IPF exhibitions, and for promotional purposes including as low resolution images on the IPF website.

Circuits: - This is the type of event that consists of more than one separately selected salon within the one event. Many have salons from different countries within the one circuit. So, if you were to enter 4 images into a section of the circuit, they would be subject to selection more than once; for example, in the case of a Circuit comprising four salons, they will be judged by four separate times by different panels of Selectors. It is therefore possible for you to gain 16 acceptances from your four entries and possibly from more than one country, provided that the actual judging and exhibition of each salon in the circuit takes place in the country allocated to that salon.

Counting Countries: - When assessing how many countries you have achieved towards a distinction, you should be aware that England, Scotland and Wales are regarded as different countries. Each will count towards the required total you have to achieve.

THE FIAP Distinctions – Category A

In order to honour eminent personalities known in the field of photography, the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP) has created the following distinctions:

Note: From 2026 a newcomer can opt to apply for the NFIAP distinction – provided they are the holder of a FIAP Life Card and they meet the following requirements. They could, if they so wish, opt not to do so and apply directly for the AFIAP distinction, again provided they are the holder of a FIAP Life Card and meet the relevant requirements.

NFIAP

Your first acceptance must be received at least 12 months before you can be awarded your AFIAP certificate.

In this period, you are required to gain: -

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Effective from 01 January 2026

Dated: 01/10/2025

This document reflects the new requirements which are effective from 01 January 2026

Criteria Requirements for FIAP Distinctions

- a) At least **25** Acceptances with at least **10** different photographs.
- b) This success must have come from entries into Salons from at least **5** different countries.

You will be required to submit a Portfolio of **5** PDI to FIAP. These must be of photographs that have each received at least **2** acceptances from FIAP Patronised Salons.

When completing the application form you will have to list the titles, awards and the countries where you received the awards. There must be **3** different countries listed

AFIAP (Artist FIAP)

Your first acceptance must be received at least 12 months before you can be awarded your AFIAP certificate.

In this period, you are required to gain: -

- c) At least **75** Acceptances with at least **20** different photographs.
- d) This success must have come from entries into Salons from at least **15** different countries.

You will be required to submit a Portfolio of **5** PDI to FIAP. These must be of photographs that have each received at least **3** acceptances from FIAP Patronised Salons.

When completing the application form you will have to list the titles, awards and the countries where you received the awards. There must be **5** different countries listed

EFIAP (Excellence FIAP)

Be the holder of the AFIAP for at least 1 year based on the date of the Certificate for the AFIAP and to have gained:-

- a) At least **200** Acceptances with at least **40** different photographs.
- b) This success must have come from entries into Salons from at least **20** different countries.

You will be required to submit a Portfolio of **5** PDI to FIAP. These must be of photographs that have each received at least **3** acceptances from FIAP Patronised Salons. They also must be different to those submitted for the NFIAP, if applicable and AFIAP distinctions.

When completing the application form you will have to list the titles, awards and the countries where you received the awards. There must be **5** different countries listed

EFIAP Levels - Bronze to Platinum

Be the holder of the previous distinction for at least 1 year based on the date of the Certificate for that previous distinction and to have gained: -

For the EFIAP/b	400 Acceptances	With at least 80 different images	From at least 25 Countries
For the EFIAP/s	600 Acceptances	With at least 130 different images	From at least 30 Countries
For the EFIAP/g	900 Acceptances	With at least 200 different images	From at least 35 Countries

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Effective from 01 January 2026

Dated: 01/10/2025

This document reflects the new requirements which are effective from 01 January 2026

Criteria Requirements for FIAP Distinctions

For the EFIAP/p	1200 Acceptances	With at least 300 different images	From at least 40 Countries
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So, having achieved Bronze, you then need a further 200 acceptances from 50 more images for Silver, to make the total of 600 acceptances from 130 images, and so on up the scale.

In addition to the above you will also be required to submit a Portfolio of **5** PDI images. These images must be from AWARD winning photographs and to have received awards in a varying number of different countries. Those requirements are as follows: -

- They must be different to and not resemble or be similar to those submitted for any previous successful application for any FIAP Distinction
- They must have at least one award
- When completing the application form you will have to list the titles, awards and the countries where you received the awards. There must be **5** different countries listed

At this stage (after EFIAP/p), all previously received awards will be reset except for those awards obtained one year before having received the EFIAP/p (date of certificate). Those can be used unless they have already been utilized for the EFIAP/p distinction.

Starting from EFIAP/d1 authors are obliged to use new photographs.

EFIAP Levels - Diamond 1 to Diamond 8

Be the holder of the previous distinction for at least 1 year based on the date of the Certificate for that previous distinction and to have gained: -

For the EFIAP/d1	50 Awards	With at least 15 different images	From at least 10 Countries
For the EFIAP/d2	100 Awards	With at least 30 different images	From at least 15 Countries
For the EFIAP/d3	200 Awards	With at least 60 different images	From at least 20 Countries
For the EFIAP/d4	350 Awards	With at least 100 different images	From at least 25 Countries
For the EFIAP/d5	500 Awards	With at least 150 different images	From at least 30 Countries
For the EFIAP/d6	650 Awards	With at least 200 different images	From at least 35 Countries
For the EFIAP/d7	800 Awards	With at least 250 different images	From at least 40 Countries
For the EFIAP/d8	950 Awards	With at least 300 different images	From at least 45 Countries

In addition to the above you will also be required to submit a Portfolio of **5** PDI images. These images must be from AWARD winning photographs and to have received awards in a varying number of different countries. Those requirements are as follows: -

For EFIAP/d1 to EFIAP/d5

- They must be different to and not resemble or be similar to those submitted for any previous successful application for any FIAP Distinction
- They must have at least **two** awards
- When completing the application form you will have to list the titles, awards and the countries where you received the awards. There must be **5** different countries listed

For EFIAP/d6 to EFIAP/d8

- They must be different to and not resemble or be similar to those submitted for any previous successful application for any FIAP Distinction
- They must have at least **three** awards
- When completing the application form you will have to list the titles, awards and the countries where you received the awards. There must be **5** different countries listed

THE FIAP Distinctions – Category B

Distinctions of Category B are intended for Photographers who, beyond having obtained the EFIAP/platinum level, have demonstrated exceptional artistic achievement and a consistent personal style through a cohesive photographic portfolio.

MASTER FIAP Distinction (MFIAP)

The candidate for this distinction must be the holder of the EFIAP/platinum distinction and be the holder of a FIAP Life Card.

There is a separate document which sets out the criteria and the process which applies to this distinction. This can be obtained from the FIAP Liaison Officer.

GRANDMASTER FIAP Distinction (GMFIAP)

This distinction is granted ex officio to the author who has achieved the MFIAP and MPFIAP distinctions. Once both of these conditions are met, the candidate will be awarded a diploma and a badge. No obligation for an application form is requested. The distinction is free of charge.

THE FIAP Distinctions – Category C

Effective from 01 January 2026 FIAP have introduced a new category of Distinctions which are earned by submitting a portfolio of images. These are assessed by a panel of reviewers based on quality and coherence.

These distinctions are different to and separate from those of Category A (the “normal” distinctions were used to).

Applications are done online via a new submission website.

As with all FIAP distinctions the person applying must be a holder of a FIAP Life Card.

Applications are handled 3 times each year with the following closing dates for submissions: 15th January, 15th May and 15th October.

There will be a fee to be paid – via the submissions website.

Criteria Requirements for FIAP Distinctions

FIAP will allow a maximum of 15 applications per country, per distinction, per date.

The Portfolios must have a theme. The title must briefly describe the theme and must be in either English or French.

The following distinctions can be achieved, in sequential order

Distinction	Portfolios
PFIAP	10 Images in 1 theme
PFIAP/b	10 Images each in 2 themes
PFIAP/s	10 Images each in 3 themes
PFIAP/g	10 Images each in 4 themes
PMFIAP	10 Images each in 5 themes

The images must be coherent and show a good level in Artistic Photography. Each theme must have either colour or black & white pictures.

Each image must have the following properties: format JPG, 300 dpi, best quality, at least 3.600 pixels on the longest side of the image and having at least 2 MB.

Same or similar images cannot be used in different portfolios.

Pictures used for successful MFIAP portfolios cannot be used. Other pictures awarded in FIAP salons and used for distinctions (other than Portfolio distinctions) can be used.

There must be a minimum of one year between each successful application. The distinctions for PFIAP, PFIAP/Bronze, PFIAP/Silver, PFIAP/Gold, and PMFIAP must be obtained in this specific sequential order.

The date on the certificate will be the date of one of the closing dates (e.g. The certificate of a portfolio submitted by January 15th and approved by the judges will be dated January 15th. Therefore, an application for the next distinction can be submitted by January 15th of the next year.)

If a distinction is not accepted, the candidate may reapply for the specific theme that was not approved, during the next submission periods. A minor supplementary fee will apply. After one year of refusal, the initial complete fee must be paid again.

The date on the certificate will reflect the most recent closing date used to finalize the selection.

By submitting an entry, the applicant certifies that he/she has captured all parts of the images and that all eventual post processing work has been done by him/herself.

The portfolios are examined by a panel of 3 or 5 FIAP international portfolio reviewers, bearer either of the MFIAP or minimum EFIAP/platinum distinction and having judged at least 30 international photography contests. Final decisions are determined by majority vote. In the event of a split among the judges (for instance, 3 votes to 2), the members of the board who meet the judging criteria will provide the final ruling.

Completing the Application Form

FIAP require that you complete an application form for the distinction. The same form is used no matter which distinction you are applying for. This form is an Excel Spreadsheet and must be submitted to the FIAP Liaison Office as an Excel Spreadsheet – not as Google Sheets or in an Apple format.

The following may help in filling out the form:-

- FIAP have constructed the form so that information is carried forward from Page A onto other pages. Please do not remove any of this formatting
- There are also “checks” and counts embedded in the spreadsheet for FIAP’s use - again please do not remove any of this
- For GDPR and Legal purposes FIAP require that you print Page B, sign it in ink (not in pencil and not a digital scan of your signature). It should then be forwarded to the FIAP Liaison Officer as part of your application.
- Under the field “UN Code” you should enter “372”.
- You have to enter your FIAP Photographers Card number and the FIAP Profile Number you obtained when you registered for the FIAP Life Card. See this example:-

Number of the FIAP Photographer’s Card:	Number FP (Profile Number) :
0372.50038	FP_3631356

- X

On Page A you also list the title of your submitted images along with other information.

LIST OF SUBMITTED WORKS			
TITLE OF THE WORKS	AWARD	Nr FIAP	COUNTRY
		yyyy/xxx	

- The “Nr. FIAP” field is the number assigned to the salon (NOT the circuit). This must be in the format yyyy/xxx – where “yyyy” is the year and “xxx” the salon number assigned by FIAP. The “/” is important – do not enter any other character or letter. The spreadsheet has a check built in and the field will be highlighted if this format is incorrect
- The “Award” field only applies when you are applying for distinction which require awarded images. In this case list the award – example “FIAP Ribbon” or “Judges Award”
- The “Country” field should also be completed. There is a “Cheat Sheet” which gives useful information about completing this field. The FIAP Liaison Officer can send this to you on request

Criteria Requirements for FIAP Distinctions

Page C may seem to be a little confusing. The following may be useful:-

- Your acceptances are to be entered onto the spreadsheet in Alphabetical order based on the image title which is entered in Column C.
- Column A is a count of the number of acceptances. It is already filled in for you so you do not need to make any changes here – unless you need to add additional acceptances or lines at the end of the list
- Column B is used to keep a count of the number of images. See this example

List the titles in alphabetical order			Put an X for each acceptance >				
1	Title N°	Title of the work	Salon	Country only English country names	Nr FIAP yyyy/xxx	Award	Digital Print
3	1	A Girl and her Dog	Arddangofsa / Exhibition of Photography	Great Britain	2013/059		X
4	2	A Sideways Glance	39th Smeathwick International	Great Britain	2013/239		X
5	3	A Winters Walk	27 Trierenberg Salon 2018 - Salon 1	Austria	2018/111		X
6	4	A Winters Walk	27 Trierenberg Salon 2018 - Salon 2	Austria	2018/112		X
7	5	A Winters Walk	27 Trierenberg Salon 2018 - Salon 3	Austria	2018/113		X
8	6	A Winters Walk	27 Trierenberg Salon 2018 - Salon 4	Austria	2018/114		X
9	7	A Winters Walk	AC Foto German Mega Circuit 2017 - Wuerttemberg	Germany	2017/223		X
0	8	A Winters Walk	AC Foto German Mega Circuit 2017 - Wuerzburg	Germany	2017/224		X
1	9	A Winters Walk	AC Foto German Mega Circuit 2017 - Kirchheim	Germany	2017/225		X
2	10	A Winters Walk	Midland Salon 2017	Great Britain	2017/242		X
3	11	A Winters Walk	39th Welsh Salon	Great Britain	2017/379		X
4	12	A Winters Walk	43rd Smeathwick International - 2017	Great Britain	2017/407		X
5	13	A Winters Walk	Yorkshire Salon 2017	Great Britain	2017/402		X
6	14	A Winters Walk	5th Olympic Photo circuit 2017 - Zeus	Greece	2017/511		X
7	15	A Winters Walk	11th Image Salon Delft - Holland	Holland	2018/003		X
8	16	A Winters Walk	5th Cork International Salon - 2017	Ireland	2017/482		X
9	17	A Winters Walk	8 Marzo - Francesco Mochi	Italy	2018/091		X
0	18	A Winters Walk	8 Marzo - Fotografi Vestrì	Italy	2018/090		X
1	19	A Winters Walk	International Florence Photo Contest	Italy	2018/562		X
2	20	Adorned for the Festival	1st Narny Exhibition 2020	Kyrgyzstan	2020/288		X
3	21	Advancing Waves	35th Northern Counties International Salon of Photography	Great Britain	2014/173		X
4	22	After the Harvest	F2 Cities 2016	Argentina	2016/066		X
5	23	After the Harvest	F2 Circuito - Salon Noroeste	Argentina	2016/242		X
6	24	After the Harvest	25 Trierenberg Super Circuit - Salon 1	Austria	2016/097		X
7	25	After the Harvest	25 Trierenberg Super Circuit - Salon 2	Austria	2016/098		X
8	26	After the Harvest	25 Trierenberg Super Circuit - Salon 3	Austria	2016/099		X
9	27	After the Harvest	25 Trierenberg Super Circuit - Salon 4	Austria	2016/100		X
0	28	After the Harvest	Festicolor 2016	Belgium	2016/031		X
1	29	After the Harvest	Bristol Salon 2016	Great Britain	2016/023		X

- Column D is used to enter the salon title. In the case of Circuits you must enter the Salon name – not the Circuit name.
- In Column E you enter the Country Name – In English. There is a drop-down menu from which you can select the country name.
- In Column F you enter the FIAP number for the Salon – not the Circuit. This must be in the format yyyy/xxx – where “yyyy” is the year and “xxx” the salon number assigned by FIAP. The “/” is important – do not enter any other character or letter. The spreadsheet has a check built in and the field will be highlighted if this format is incorrect

The completed spreadsheet along with the submitted images must be sent by email or by WeTransfer to the FIAP Liaison Officer by the closing date. The Liaison Officer will then check each application to ensure completeness.

When all applications are checked the Liaison Officer will send them to FIAP for their processing.

If you have any questions please contact the FIAP Liaison Officer via the Contact Us page on the IPF Website (www.irishphoto.ie)