

RPS Distinctions

Gain recognition for your achievements with the Society's prestigious Distinctions.

The Royal Photographic Society's Distinctions are acknowledged worldwide as measures of achievement.

There is no better way of improving your photographic skills than by working towards a Distinction, as many thousands of members have discovered. Being awarded a Distinction gives photographers the satisfaction of knowing that the quality of their work is recognised by the best in the field.

Distinctions are awarded either on the basis of a portfolio of work which is assessed by a panel of experts, or by exemption for qualifications already held.

There are three levels of Distinction and, in addition, the Imaging Scientist Qualifications which are specifically aimed at engineers, scientists and technologists:

[Licentiatehip \(LRPS\)](#)

[Associateship \(ARPS\)](#)

[Fellowship \(FRPS\)](#)

LRPS Introduction

The Licentiatehip is open to all members of The Royal Photographic Society. Non-members of the Society may also apply for the Licentiatehip but if they are successful, the Distinction will not be approved until after they have been elected to Membership. The Licentiatehip is awarded either for competence in practical photography, or in recognition of the passing of an appropriate examination in photography by the Society.

Stills Photography

This is the basic Distinction awarded and requires the submission of 10 prints or 10 slides. Submissions can also be made on CD ROM.

A combination of prints and slides is not acceptable. Prints can be submitted as a portfolio of black and white or as a portfolio of colour, but can include a combination of both.

Print size should not exceed 40cm x 50cm (16 inches x 20 inches) and although there is no minimum size, 20cm x 25cm (10 inches x 8

inches) would be considered reasonable. Most slide submissions are in the 35mm format, but larger sizes are accepted.

Consideration should be given to arranging prints as a cohesive panel, normally in two rows. A small diagram or numbering system must indicate clearly your wishes in this respect. Slides will be viewed as a sequence (one slide followed by the next). Each slide must be numbered to indicate this.

Presentation and mounting of prints should be sympathetic with the subject matter and slides spotted as normal for viewing (i.e. bottom left corner when viewed normally). Commercially processed material is acceptable.

Candidates are expected to show a general photographic competence - please consider the criteria used to assess submissions as indicated below. There are no constraints on subject matter, but beware of including too great a diversity within a portfolio.

ARPS Introduction

Both members and non-members may apply for the Associateship, which is a more specialised Distinction. It is awarded for a high degree of proficiency and the demonstration of a high technical and visual competence in particular categories.

Applications from non-members should be accompanied by an application for membership which will be processed if the Distinction application is successful.

Entry Categories

Applied and Professional
Film and Video
Nature
Science
Contemporary
Visual Art
Documentary and Visual Journalism
Research and Development in Photography
Printing
Slide-Sound Sequences
Travel

Submission

In most categories: either 15 prints or transparencies, or 15 minutes of slide-sound sequence, or 15 minutes of film or video.

FRPS Introduction

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 RPS 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.

Entry Categories

Applied and Professional
Film and Video
Nature
Science
Contemporary
Visual Art
Documentary and Visual Journalism
Research and Development in Photography
Printing
Slide-Sound Sequences
Travel

Submission

In most categories: either 20 prints or transparencies, or 20 minutes of slide-sound sequence, or 15 minutes of film or video.