

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding FIAP Distinctions

Who can apply for FIAP Distinctions?

Members of a national photography organization that is an Organizational Member of FIAP can apply for FIAP Distinctions through their national organization. PAA is the national photography organization in the United States of America (USA) that is the Operational Member of FIAP for the USA. Members of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), an international photographic organization, who are members of a PSA-member club in the USA, are automatically members of PAA.

What acceptances can be used for FIAP Distinctions?

Only those acceptances received in salons that have FIAP-Patronage. You will be asked to list the FIAP Patronage number in your application.

How long do I need to wait to apply for the first FIAP Distinction (AFIAP)?

Your first acceptance in a FIAP-Patronage salon must have been at least a year before your first FIAP Distinction application is submitted to FIAP.

Other than acceptances, what other requirements does FIAP have for Distinctions?

Each FIAP Distinction has different requirements for the acceptances listed to have been received:

- * from a specific number of different images (Note: the images must be different, they cannot resemble or be similar to other images submitted),*
- * in a specific number of countries (Note: FIAP considers England, Scotland, and Wales as three different countries),*
- * in a specific number of salons (Note: A circuit is considered one salon),*
- * to have received awards (Note: Honorable Mentions are considered Awards), and*
- * for prints (Note: Only for AFIAP and EFIAP).*

Are there limits to the number of acceptances that can be claimed from any one salon?

Yes, for some distinctions there are limitations to the number of acceptances from one salon.

Are there limits to the number of acceptances that can be claimed from any one country?

Yes, for some distinctions there are limitations to the number of acceptances from one country.

Is there a number of acceptances that must be for prints?

Yes, for the AFIAP and EFIAP a certain number of prints must have received acceptances.

How are acceptances for images in different categories handled?

There is no distinction between acceptances in different categories like Color, Mono, Nature, Travel, or Photojournalism.

If I have received acceptances for the same image in Color and in Mono, does this count as one or two images (titles)?

This is one image, one title. It is the same as getting an acceptance for an image in Color and then in Nature – it is one image, one title! This is consistent with the requirement that an image have only one title whenever and wherever it is used. Additionally, the same title cannot be used for another image.

What does FIAP consider a different image?

FIAP specifically states that images “must be different and not resemble or be similar to those ...” It can be argued that images taken at the same photo shoot of the same model in the same clothes or an animal in a specific location, will be similar and will resemble one another. The alteration or manipulation of an image to create a new title can be problematic. A substantial change as in the creation of a montage should be considered a different image; however, simply moving around the content or minor changes, will not be a different image. The application of a filter or cropping the image will not create a new image.

If in doubt, do not submit an image that might be considered similar to or resembling another image. Since this is not a clear –cut definition and is a matter of judgement, remember that FIAP expects you to earn a Distinction by taking photographs, not by tinkering around with images, and let that concept be your guide.

I received the AFIAP Distinction on June 1. Since I must wait one year for my EFIAP application, do I apply after June 1 of this year?

No, FIAP will not approve your next distinction before one year; however, you need to indicate your plan to submit for the EFIAP to PAA, receive the PAA instructions, complete your application, and submit your application and payment to PAA by the annual PAA submission date. PAA will review your application and let you know if any adjustments are required. Once approved by PAA, your application will be sent to FIAP with all the other applications from the USA for that year.

PAA can submit one group of Distinction applications each year. PAA maintains the same submission dates to receive applications from PAA members in the USA and submits those applications to FIAP at the same time each year, assuring that each PAA member can make applications on a yearly basis.

I have received the AFIAP and have heard that I should plan ahead to earn the EFIAP and work through the EFIAP levels: b, s, g, and p, so that I will have the correct number of titles from acceptances received at the required times. Why is this important?

When you have the EFIAP and are going to the EFIAP levels you cannot use any acceptances or titles that were used in the AFIAP or EFIAP applications. Additionally, you cannot use any acceptances or awards that were received before the date on your EFIAP Certificate. It is better if you do some planning so you do not waste acceptances or titles that you might have been able to use.

I understand that an Honorable Mention counts as an Award. Some salons use Award terminology that is difficult to understand. How can I be sure that what I think is an Award will be approved by FIAP?

The only awards that will not be approved and should not be included in your application are those awards that were restricted to be received by a specific group, e.g., the residents of that country, the members of the group sponsoring the salon, youth. In other words, these awards were not available to everyone who entered.

When can I consider an acceptance, title, or award as something I can use in my FIAP Distinction application, as soon as I receive the report card?

No, you can celebrate receiving the acceptance when you receive the Report Card; however, it is only when FIAP receives the “Salon File” from the salon. It is only then that your application can be verified. You can check to see if a specific “Salon File” has been received by going to: <http://patronages.fiap.net/salons.html>.

I have received report cards where an image title, my name, or my country have been misspelled or are incorrect. What do I do?

Whenever there is something on your report card that is incorrect, it is your responsibility to contact the salon and make sure that they correct the error. The sooner you do this, the better so that the "Salon File" that is submitted to FIAP by the salon is correct. If the "Salon File" has already been submitted and the salon does not respond to your first email request, send another email request and ask for a confirmation that they received your email. Also, copy FIAP on this second email and keep a copy of all your emails to submit with your application.

Please affirm that I will be able to use acceptances and titles that I will use in my AFIAP application when I apply for the EFIAP.

When you apply for the EFIAP you can use all or part of the images (titles) that you used in your AFIAP application. Therefore there is no reason not to use any title in your AFIAP application; however, if you intend to use any in your EFIAP Portfolio of images submitted as the two required Award recipients, then they must not be included in your Portfolio of five images that you submit with your AFIAP application. The images in each Portfolio for each Distinction must not have been submitted previously or be similar to or resemble any that you have included in any earlier successful Portfolio.

You can also use the salons and countries that you use in your AFIAP application again in your EFIAP application. The requirement for 30 salons and 20 countries for the EFIAP includes the number of salons and countries that were reported in your AFIAP application.

I have earned the AFIAP and am working toward the EFIAP. When I submit my EFIAP application do I need to include the acceptances that I used for my AFIAP?

Yes. The EFIAP application must include all 250 acceptances from 50 different images (titles). When submitting, think of the EFIAP application as completely separate from the AFIAP application.

Do I add the acceptances for the EFIAP to the end of the list I created for the AFIAP application?

No. The list of titles for each FIAP Distinction application must be totally integrated and merged as one list in alphabetical order.

I understand that FIAP considers a Circuit one salon. If I enter a Circuit that has the individual salons in different countries, do these individual salons count as different countries in my applications?

Basically, if the individual salons were actually judged and exhibited in the country indicated and not in one location by different country groups, then yes, they will count as different countries. You can find the country attributed to each salon at: <http://patronages.fiap.net/salons.html>

What does Portfolio mean as used by FIAP? Does the Portfolio need to have a common theme?

The word "Portfolio" is being used by FIAP in regard to the Distinction applications generally to mean "a set of pieces of creative work collected by someone to display their skills." There is no requirement to have theme for the images used in the portfolio of images to go with a FIAP Distinction application: AFIAP, EFIAP, or EFIAP Levels.

What about the MFIAP? Doesn't it require a theme?

You are correct. The Portfolio for the MFIAP does require 20 images that adhere to a theme. These images are judged at the very highest standards by the FIAP Board of Directors. This Portfolio does not require an Overview image.

Can the USA be used as a country where I receive an acceptance or award with one FIAP Distinction application and then be used again as a country with another application?

As long as any country is used with a different image with the next application, it can be used in any number of applications for the different FIAP Distinctions.

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