

Frequently Asked Questions - (updated August 2019)

Regardless of how thoroughly we prepare guidelines for FIAP Distinctions there will always be 'grey' areas, caused by a number of problems, including among others:-

- a) The complexity of the rules.
- b) Problems relating to translation of FIAP documents into English.
- c) Applicants' difficulties with the software.
- d) Conflicting or inaccurate advice from the ill informed.

We have set out below answers to a number of issues that have given rise to queries in the past. In this document and others on the PAGB web site it should be noted that:-

- a) PAGB does not apply any additional criteria over and above FIAP's stated criteria.
- b) When relevant, or wherever there has been any doubt, the matter has been referred to FIAP for clarification to ensure that the information and answers are correct.

The Questions and answers are divided into two groups, 'About the Criteria' and 'About the Application Forms'. There may be some overlap between the two.

ABOUT THE CRITERIA

1. Question

I have just received a report card, which indicates I have achieved the criteria the next award. As I am within the timetable you supplied can I register for the next distinction?

Answer:-

Not yet. No account is taken of results provided by 'Report Card, whether email or on-line, because they are not reliable and are subject to error. Results from salons are not recognised towards FIAP Distinctions until FIAP have received the "Salon File" from the salon. Without it your application cannot be verified. Therefore you must not register until the relevant "Salon Files" have been received by FIAP. You can check this by going to:-

<http://patronages.fiap.net/salons.html> or- <https://www.myfiap.net/patronages>

Check the relevant listing and you will find a field for each event provided for the purpose.

2. Question

I have gained my AFIAP, which is dated 1st June 2019. I understand that there must be 12 months between applications. Does this mean I cannot apply for EFIAP in 2020?

Answer:-

No. It means that FIAP will not sign off on the next distinction before 12 months has elapsed, ie: any application by you for EFIAP will not be granted before 1st June 2020. PAGB are only allowed to submit one batch of applications per year. Therefore we maintain the same final date for applications each year, so as to ensure that you are able to make applications on a yearly basis. Therefore you can apply for EFIAP in 2020.

This advice applies for all Distinctions through from AFIAP to EFIAP Diamond 3. It does not apply in respect of MFIAP for which different rules apply.

3. Question:-

Can you advise me, if a panel/portfolio of 4 pictures is accepted in an exhibition, are all 4 pictures counted or do you just count it as one?

Answer:

A panel or portfolio of pictures counts as ONE acceptance. The separate titles within the panel will not count as different titles and you cannot use such acceptances to count towards the number of titles you have gained. If you wish to include a Portfolio acceptance in a distinction application then you should submit copies of all images in the Portfolio with your Portfolio CD in a separate folder.

4. Question:-

If I receive acceptances for the same image in colour and also in mono will this count as one or two titles?

Answer:-

It counts as only ONE title. In the same way an image used in an Open Section and then a Nature Section (or any other section) is counted as one title, the same applies for one gained in Monochrome and Colour. This is in line with the requirement that once accepted an image must keep the same title for life; no image can have more than one title, nor can the same title be used for more than one image

5. Question:-

Following from 3 above I have two pictures that are very similar. Will FIAP accept them as different images?

Answer:-

There is no definitive answer. Manipulating of images to create multiple titles can create problems. FIAP state that relatively minor change will not qualify an image different for their purposes. A clear and substantial montage would be accepted as a different image but merely shuffling around content or minor changes will not. The mere application of a filter or simply cropping will not create a different image. You should accept that there is no clearly definable dividing line and use your commonsense.

The best advice is not to push the boundaries. This applies especially if your total of titles is close to the minimum requirement, when any such similar images will obviously be looked at far more closely than if you have plenty to spare. It is a question of judgement and you must remember that FIAP expect you to earn your award by taking pictures, not merely fiddling around on the computer.

6. Question:-

If a Circuit has component salons from more than one country, do these component salons count as 'different countries' for AFIAP and EFIAP and 'different countries' for awards at EFIAP levels?

Answer:-

This is where things get complicated. The simple answer is that it depends where the individual components were actually judged. If each component salon is judged and exhibited in the country being attributed to it then the answer is YES. If not and the judging of the circuit takes place in only one location then the answer is NO. The Patronage web site at <http://patronages.fiap.net/salons.html> and the FIAP Platform at <https://www.myfiap.net/patronages> provide the answer. Check the appropriate lists and you will find that the attributed country is now listed. In the case of the Chronological Lists it is the last word on each line of entry.

7. Question:-

Could you please clarify one thing for me? I understand about all circuits counting as one Salon. However if I entered, say Northern Counties for 6 years, would this count as one or six Salons?

Answer:-

Different years of the same event are different salons for this purpose, so your example would count as six.

8. Question:-

Can you clarify the rules regarding applicants for EFIAP who are looking forward in the future to working towards EFIAP Bronze. What acceptances and awards can I use?

Answer:-

I applying for EFIAP Levels Distinction you can't count or use any titles that were used for AFIAP or EFIAP distinctions. Also you can't use any awards or acceptances gained before your EFIAP Certificate date.

9. Question:-

When looking to use acceptances and awards for EFIAP Bronze or other Levels applications, I know I can't use anything received before the date on my EFIAP Certificate, but what is the date that an acceptance is received?

Answer:-

There is no definitive answer to this question in the rules. Therefore commonsense must prevail. I would suggest that the final date of selection for the Salon in question could be safely used as the date that you received an acceptance or award.

10. Question:-

I have EFIAP Bronze and have enough acceptances etc. to apply for EFIAP Gold. Can I apply for it now?

Answer:-

No. The rules are quite clear. You must apply for each level in sequence and there must be a minimum 12month gap between each application. Under FIAP rules PAGB are only allowed to send in one batch of applications a year, but we keep that submission to the same date each year, therefore you will always be able to go onto the next higher award the following year. (see question 2 above)

11. Question:-

If I obtain the bronze with award winning images from England, Wales and Scotland (for example); can my awards for silver (with different images) come from England, Wales, Scotland, and say France?

Answer:-

Yes, but do be aware of the rule regarding circuits with salons supposedly in different countries.

12. What is the position with carrying forward acceptances etc between different Levels distinctions?

Answer:

You should consider the results you get after the date of your EFIAP certificate as a single pool. You could in theory gain all the acceptances and awards from the requisite countries needed to progress from Bronze to Platinum in 1 year. You could then, dip into the pool each year for 4 years to obtain the awards, 1 each year. Remember though each portfolio must contain different images to any other.

13. I am working towards Silver. In my list of acceptances for Bronze there were acceptances that also gained awards, which I did not use in my Bronze Portfolio. Can I use them towards my Silver portfolio?

Answer:

Yes you can, provided they are from titles that have not been used in your earlier portfolio. As per Q.12 above, it is just one big pot of work from Bronze to Platinum. This of course carries through to Platinum with the only proviso being that at each level the Portfolio titles must not have been used before, and nor should identical or very similar images be used for subsequent portfolios.

14. Question:-

I have gained my Bronze and will hopefully go for my Silver later this year. When I prepare my Form C for Silver I know that the acceptances I got for Bronze count towards the criteria for Silver, but do I have to include them on my Form C for Silver?

Answer:

Yes. When preparing any new dossier, think of that form as a completely new application. It must contain all the necessary results to meet the required criteria. Please also bear in mind that you cannot simply add the new results after the old ones, everything must be in the correct alphabetical order, with new Title numbers etc.

15. Question:-

Having got Bronze can I add new acceptance and/or awards to titles I used for bronze when working towards Silver?

Answer:

Yes, as mentioned before it is just one big pot available for you to dip into as you need to.

16. Question:-

I wondered if there was any benefit in exceeding the required criteria or should I only include up to the criteria?

Answer:

It is better to exceed the required criteria, **but** do not include so many that you are exceeding the criteria for the next Distinction.. You do not lose an acceptance for EFIAP by using them for AFIAP, they can all carry forward. Additionally because of 'question 8' above there is nothing lost in respect of EFIAP. Once into Levels it is all one pool from Bronze to Platinum so nothing is lost there. The same applies to Diamond Applications. This way you cover for any unforeseen problems. Also don't forget, if you are close to or just on the criteria, not only can an error invalidate your application, but by its very nature such applications attract closer scrutiny. The exception is Levels Portfolio; you may need any extra awarded images for a higher application.

17. Question:-

Is an AWARD anything over an acceptance? Some Salons use slightly different terminology, eg; Salon Praise

Answer:-

Any award, from whatever source and however it is described, counts. The only exception is in an award not open to all entrants, eg:- in Northern Counties there are "Northumbria Trophies", which are restricted to NCPF entrants. These do not count as awards for FIAP distinctions

18. Question:-

I need 2 awards for my application. I have just received the results from a salon and have got an unexpected award. Unfortunately, in the results they have put my country as Uruguay. I have written to them to ask them to correct it in the catalogue. If they don't, will that count against me?

Answer:-

There should be no problem provided you do things correctly. You have done the right thing in requesting the correction; however you must request that they notify FIAP of the correction. If they fail to do this or to respond, send a 2nd message requesting the action and confirmation and copy it to FIAP. Keep copies of your correspondence to submit with your application.

19. Question:-

I am preparing my application for AFIAP, and whilst I do have two photos which have gained awards, I have sufficient other results not to have to use them for this application. What would you advise?

Answer:-

When you apply for EFIAP you can use all or any part of the work that you declared at AFIAP. So, there is no reason why you should not use them in for AFIAP, with one proviso. If you wish to use them in your EFIAP Portfolio as the required two award winners, then they must not be included in your portfolio of 5 images that you submit with your AFIAP application. This is because the images in a portfolio must not have been used, be similar to or resemble any that you have included in any earlier successful portfolio.

20. Question:-

Can England to be used as an awarded 'country' for Bronze, then using a different image, for Silver?

Answer:-

Yes that is acceptable. Any given country can be used in any number of applications for different levels.

21. Question:-

I noticed that I had inadvertently given two totally different images the same title. I know that this is my fault but can I use both images in my submission? If so could I differentiate between the different titles?

Answer:-

I am afraid that the rule is that each image must have a different title. Therefore you must submit only one image with any particular title. Which you decide to abandon is your choice, but one must be dropped.

22. Question:-

Can you clarify one of the requirements for AFIAP - the reference to 'over periods of not less than 12 months'? Do I have to show acceptances spanning a period of time greater than 12 months or is it only that the first acceptance must be greater than 12 months old at the time of application?

The rule is simply that the first acceptance must have been received at least 12 months before FIAP will consider your application, nothing else. So if applying for AFIAP in 2020 and results received in say April 2019 will count as meeting the 12 month rule.

23. I have gained Platinum and looking toward Diamond 1. I know the Diamond distinctions take into account only awards and that they must be gained after the date on my Platinum Certificate, but can those awards come from titles that I have already used for the Bronze to Platinum distinctions.

Answer:-

The way that the rules are written indicates yes. The provision for the results for EFIAP levels to have to be gained after the date of your EFIAP Certificate applies, across the board for all EFIAP Levels distinctions, including the Diamond distinctions. There is no other provision in this respect, so don't go looking for one.

ABOUT THE APPLICATION FORMS

24. Question:-

When I open the Excel Dossier File I can only see Page A, where are the others?

Answer:-

The additional pages ARE there. It is most likely that you are not using Excel properly. Once the file is open, check the window that you can see Page A in; look toward the top right corner of that window (NOT the top right of the screen) and you will see the usual three icons for minimising, maximising and closing the file. Click on the middle square icon to maximise the display and you will see the A.B C tabs appear miraculously at the left hand foot of the now maximised window. Each tab opens the relevant page.

25. Question:-

I am trying to match the FIAP No's that are listed on the FIAP web site to the Salons that I am listing for my awards application. However I find that in a number of cases, especially in relation to Circuits, the number allocated on the web site does not agree with that in the relevant catalogue. What do I do?

Answer:-

Yes this does occur. You should use the number listed on the FIAP web sites, because that is what FIAP will be checking against. Be careful, I see numerous examples where the wrong number has been quoted by the applicant: eg:- numbers from other patronage organisations. Remember that the accuracy of this number is vital because FIAP's Salon data base, against which your application is checked, only displays the FIAP salon Number and NOT the Salon or Circuit name. If you get it wrong you could lose that acceptance or award from your application.

Use the FIAP web sites at:- <http://patronages.fiap.net/salons.html> or <https://www.myfiap.net/patronages>

26. Question

I am applying for EFIAP having gained AFIAP. When I complete my form C do I need to include those acceptances gained for AFIAP as well as the new ones for EFIAP?

Answer:-

Yes you do. Your application for EFIAP must include ALL the qualifying 250 acceptances from the 50 different images. The EFIAP application as totally separate from your AFIAP one.

27. Question:-

I have been lucky enough to win an award, but the salon has got the title completely wrong and has declined to alter it. What can I do?

Answer:-

First of all it is your responsibility to ensure that any entries in a catalogue (printed or CD) are correct and you should do this as soon as you receive it. If there are errors you should immediately notify the salon and ask them to submit a correction to FIAP; they are required to do this by the terms of the patronage. You should also ask them to copy such correspondence to yourself. You can then attach a copy to any future application to clarify matters.

*If it is your fault that the error was made and the salon is not helpful then, **provided it is an isolated case**, I would be prepared to accept the use of an 'alternate title' as per the guidelines you will receive when you register to apply for an award. But please attach any relevant emails to your application.*

Finally, if the salon refuses to co-operate without good reason, then you should immediately email the information to the FIAP Patronage Officer. Keep a copy to go with any future application for an award.

28. Question

I was reading the Validation Requirements in the pack that you sent across. There is a box where it asks the photographer to certify that the Photographs used in this Portfolio are different from and not similar to any of those used in that or any earlier successful FIAP distinction applications. Does this mean that any images I use as part of an AFIAP submission will not be able to be used towards a future EFIAP submission?

Answer:

No that only refers to the images in portfolios; each successive portfolio must consist of different images.

29. Question:-

I note that portfolio images submitted for a distinctions application must be different from and not similar to any others used in the current or any previous portfolio I have submitted for a distinctions application. What does the word "SIMILAR" mean?

Answer:-

In addition to the straight forward concept of visual similarit,FIAP can and do include consideration of subject matter and general composition as a consideration, especially for EFIAP Levels Distinctions.

For example, a portfolio of images containing several images of athletes taken on different days at different locations, but with similar compositional properties was found to be similar.

In another case a series of images from across the current and a previous portfolio were clearly very different visually and compositionally. They were also taken on different days. However the images were of the same wild animal or one of an identical species, which were shown, together with its young, in various stages of hunting down and catching prey. These were also deemed to be "similar"

30. Question:-

When you complete the thumbnails for the Contact Sheet to go with the application, do you need to do the prints as well as the PDI's? Some of the prints go back a long way and were taken from medium format slides/negatives. Also what happens if I do not still have one some the prints or slides?

Answer:-

With old prints, if you have them, a scan duly reduced will do; with slides, you can either scan them or, as in the past, send me copy of each slide, duly titled (which I will return promptly).In respect of missing prints or slides, then providing you are sufficiently over the criteria, not claiming something you cannot prove will be the only way forward.

31. Question:-

In my previous application I listed my titles in alphabetical order. I also have my list of titles in alphabetical order for my next application. Do I just add them after the previous list or do I need to integrate them with that list, so that all the titles are in alphabetical order?

Answer:-

Each application is a fresh application and is checked by FIAP as such. Therefore the Titles/Acceptances must be merged together in one alphabetical listing please. In any case as you may have further acceptances for a title used at a previous application, separate lists would be impractical.