

Distinctions Procedure: Requirements for the Direct Route to Fellowship (The Distinctions Department are currently rewriting and updating this document. Publishing date: February 2019)

Approved by Council: November 2015

1. Introduction

1.1: Photographers or individuals with established national or international reputations, earned over a significant period of time whether they are members of The Society or not, may be nominated for a direct application for Fellowship without the need to submit an application through the normal assessment process. The assessment is based upon the applicant's Curriculum vitae (CV), a selection of images and on recommendations from a sponsor and testimonials from three referees.

Those eligible to apply for Fellowship through this route will be photographers of national or international renown whose work is very well known and well respected. It is probable that they will be known through personal major national exhibitions, significant published work or a significant commercial portfolio.

Evidence of a significant contribution to photography is essential.

1.2: Members of the Distinction Advisory Board, Panel Chairs, Council Members or the Director General may propose an applicant for a Direct Fellowship without the need of referees.

2. Principle

This route allows direct application or recommendation for Fellowship without the requirement for the applicant to be an Associate member of The Society.

3. Assessment

a) The submission or recommendation will be reviewed by the Distinction Advisory Board at the next available meeting. The Distinctions Advisory Board might consult with the Fellowship Board members, external advisors before putting forward a recommendation to Council for ratification.

b) In order to recommend an award the DAB must be satisfied that: 'the applicant has demonstrated an original and sustained high standard of photography a level appropriate to a Fellow of The Society'.

c) The DAB may call for additional evidence if this is considered necessary.



4. Review and Approval

The recommendations from the Distinctions Advisory Board will be to Council. No award can be made unless it is approved by the Council of The Society.

5. Eligibility

- a) Direct application is open to members and non-members of The Society.
- b) An applicant is allowed to be proposed for a direct Fellowship only once.
- c) Normally an Associate of The Society will not be considered for Direct Fellowship.
- d) Applicants who have failed in a submission for Fellowship cannot be considered for Direct Fellowship.

6. Requirements

a) A Sponsor: This will normally be a senior member of The Society who will provide written justification for the award. Suitable sponsors will include Officers or Fellows of The Society and Council members. For applicants who may not know any suitable Society member, the sponsor may be a nationally or internationally recognised photographer with an established reputation at the highest level. Whilst applicants can be aware of the nomination they cannot directly instigate that nomination. If such practice is discovered that applicant will be disqualified. When the sponsor is not a member of The Society the Distinctions Department and DAB chair must be satisfied that the proposed sponsor is acceptable to The Society. It is not intended that the sponsor should act without the knowledge of the applicant.

b) A Curriculum Vitae provided by the applicant to cover, in particular, photographic achievements. These may include Education, Exhibitions, work in public collections, publications, commissions, employment, prizes and awards, Distinctions and Qualifications of other Societies

c) Documentary evidence to support the Curriculum Vitae.

d) Normally an applicant will submit examples (up to 20 images as agreed with the Distinctions Department of work to be considered by the DAB. Evidence will not normally be required for a proposal by the DAB, Panel Chairs, Council Members or Director General.

e) Three further references. These references and the sponsor's citation should accompany the application and address the following issues:

Confirmation of the Curriculum Vitae (particularly those parts not supported by documentary evidence).

The extent to which the applicant has made a sustained, original and distinguished contribution to photography.



7. Fees

When nominated for the direct route applicants need to pay an administration fee. In the case of a proposal by the Distinctions Advisory Board, Panel Chair, Council Member and Director General no fee will apply.

8. Non-member Applications

Non-members of The Society may be proposed for the Fellowship by the direct route but, if the application is successful, the Distinction will not be approved until they become a member of the Society. At the same time as the Fellowship application is submitted, the non-member is also required to submit an application for membership of The Society, together with the appropriate fee.

However, if the Fellowship application is not successful, the applicant will be told the result and given the reasons for failure. At the same time the applicant will be given the option of either allowing the membership application to go forward for membership at the appropriate rate or having and the fee refunded. The Fellowship application fee will not be refunded.

