

Welcome to the Distinctions department of the Institute of Sri Lankan Photographers. This illustration has been prepared as a guide to the members who seek to apply for distinctions of ISLP. Institute of Sri Lankan Photographers is an organization founded in 1994 with a vision of advancing the photographic profession towards professionalism in photography.

1. Mission

- To promote the advancement of photography as a science, art, industry, a business, and a profession.
- To encourage high professional standards and ethics in photography.
- To safeguard the interests of photographers.
- To provide a forum for members to discuss all aspects of photography.
- To encourage photographic education and training.
- To educate photographers in sound business practices beyond the lens.

2. Why Become a Qualified Member

- As in many professional bodies worldwide, ISLP awards professional qualifications.
- These qualifications establish industry standards.
- They recognize the holder as a corporate member.
- There are three progressive levels: Licentiate, Associate, and Fellow.
- Each level reflects increasing experience, skill, and achievement.

3. Eligibility

Open to amateur and practicing photographers.

4. Levels of Distinction

- **Licentiate (LISLP):** Demonstrates solid technical skills and the ability to compose and control work as a means of communication.
- **Associate (AISLP):** Requires evidence of creativity, high technical competence, and comprehensive knowledge of the discipline. Work must be consistent, show personal style, and be presented to a high standard.

- **Fellow (FISLP):** The highest distinction, awarded for excellence and distinguished ability. Work must demonstrate individuality, originality, and technical mastery appropriate to the subject and intent.

5. General Guidance

- Submissions must be consistent in quality and reflect a developing personal style.
- Presentation is crucial; panels expect a high standard.
- Evidence must be your own work, and you must hold copyright.
- Non-conforming submissions will be rejected without assessment.
- Images must be in the correct order; we will not rearrange portfolios.
- Mounts should enhance the work and maintain consistency.
- Labels (name, membership number, distinction level, title, category) must be affixed to the reverse side of each photograph.
- A technical data sheet and Curriculum Vitae (CV) must accompany submissions.
- Submissions must be delivered with the stipulated fee before the deadline. Fees are non-refundable.
- Only ISLP members may hold distinctions. Successful candidates must become Life Members before the award ceremony.
- Canvassing Qualification Panel members will result in disqualification.

Categories include: Advertising, Aerial, Altered Reality, Archaeology, Architecture, Creative Art, Industrial, Landscape, Lifestyles, Macro, Nature, Nude, People & Behaviour, Photojournalism, Pictorial, Portraiture, Sports, Street, Studio, Travel, Wedding, Wildlife.

Important Restrictions:

- Alterations are prohibited in certain categories (e.g., Nature, Wildlife, Landscape, Photojournalism). Only minimal adjustments (Levels, Curves, Brightness/Contrast, cropping) are allowed.
- Captive animals, pets, or staged events are not permitted in Nature, Wildlife, or documentary categories.
- Wedding submissions must be from real weddings, with written consent from the couple.

- If the judging panel deems RAW or original image files should be verified, the candidate must provide such image files to the ISLP governing body. In such instance, if a candidate refuses to do so, his or her submission will be rejected.

6. Requirements

Licentiate & Associate

- Must be ISLP members for at least one year.
- Age: 20+ for Licentiate, 25+ for Associate.
- Experience: 3 years (Licentiate), 5 years (Associate).
- Associate applicants must already hold Licentiate membership.
- Submission: 20 digital images (JPEG/HEIF, sRGB, Larger side not exceeding 3000px, File size Maximum 10 MB per image, Resolution 300 dpi recommended).
- Themes: Minimum of five categories for Licentiate and maximum of three categories for associate.
- Images must retain EXIF data.
- Files must be submitted on a pen drive to the Secretary before the deadline.
- File Naming : Title_Category.jpg
- AI-generated images are not accepted.

Fellow

- Must hold Associate membership.
- Age: 30+.
- Experience: 10 years.
- Submission: 15 mounted prints (10–16” smaller side, 15–20” larger side, max mount size 20x24”) or a Photobook (15 spreads, 10x15”–12x18”, horizontal orientation).
- Themes: only one Theme .
- Photobook must include introduction, flow, and captions where necessary.
- Author’s name must not appear in the book.
- Hard cover recommended.
- Soft copies of all evidence must be submitted on CD/Flash Drive.
- AI-generated images are not accepted.

Disqualification

All (Licentiate, Associate and Fellow) Entries may be disqualified if:

- Submission guidelines are not followed
- Manipulations exceed permitted standards
- Plagiarism or copyright infringement is detected
- Deadlines are missed

7. Judging

- The Qualifications Board meets annually (usually May).
- Submissions must reach the Board at least 7 days before the closing date.
- Assessment considers quality, presentation, creativity, and technical details.
- Decisions are final and binding.

8. Marking Scheme

- **Licentiate & Associate:** Impact, Composition, Color Balance, & Workmanship. (25 marks each).

- **Fellow:** Impact, Composition, Color Balance /Monochrome, Workmanship & Presentation (20 marks each, with subcategories).
- **Fellow Photobook:** Image Quality, Page Flow, Texts/Illustrations, Presentation (25 marks each).
- Each of the above (Fellow) category will have five subcategories:

- **1. Impact**

- Creativity 5
- Leading the eye 5
- Angle of view 5
- Artistic merit 5

- **2. Composition**

- Centre of interest 5
- Placement of elements 5
- Framing 5
- Usage of composition rules 5

- **3. Colour Balance**

- Extent of usage of colour 5
- Colour harmony 5
- Correctness of Colour 5
- Saturation/vibrance 5

- **3-a Monochrome**

- Intensity of tones 10
- Strength of B&W 10

- **4. Workmanship**

- Usage of light 5
- Usage of technique 5
- Novelty 5

- Print quality 5

5. Presentation

- Style 10
- Elegance 10

Photobook of Fellow entries

1. Image quality 25 marks
2. Designing of pages/flow 25 marks
3. Texts/illustrations 25 marks
4. Presentation 25 marks

- When evaluating a Photobook, the overall standard of the work, Usage of a suitable title for the book, producing perfect images at correct places, applying suitable font types, font sizes and proper grammar for texts, the flow of the content within the book will be taken into consideration.
- Applicants should obtain marks above 50% for each and every category. Also, if necessary, applicant will be summoned to defend his/her presentation before the evaluation panel.
- **CV Evaluation:** Education, Experience, Achievements, Dedication to ISLP, Presentation of Evidence (20 marks each).

- **Personal profile (C.V.) of all three levels**

Personal profiles (C.V.) will be evaluated separately under the following categories.

1. Education 20 marks
2. Experience 20 marks
3. Achievements 20 marks

4. Dedication to ISLP 20 marks

5. Presentation of evidence 20 marks

Each of the above categories will have following subcategories.

1. Education

- College education 5
- University or equivalent Institution 5
- Photographic course – Theoretical knowledge 5
- Workshops and seminars – Practical knowledge 5

(0.5 marks per workshop or seminar – maximum of 5 marks)

2. Experience

- Apprentice period under a reputed photographer 5
- Studio experience 5
- Foreign experience 5
- Own experience 5

(0.5 marks per year – maximum of 5 marks)

3. Achievements

- Awards, certificates and acceptance from competitions and exhibitions 5
- Solo Exhibitions 5
- Participation as Resource person 5
- Qualifications and recognitions from other reputed organizations 5

4. Dedication to ISLP

- Membership period 4
- Serving in the Council 4
- Serving in successful working committees 4
- Participation at workshops 4
- Attendance at members' days 4

(0.5 marks per year/participation – maximum of 4 marks.) A bonus point will be awarded for life membership.

5. Presentation of evidence 20

Applicants should obtain marks above 50% for all categories.

Total Marks

80% of total marks will be calculated from the marks received for the Portfolio and 20% from the marks of Personal Profile (C.V.).

Pass Marks:

- Licentiate: 55%
- Associate: 70%
- Fellow: 85%

9. Exemptions

Candidates with distinctions from recognized international societies may apply for Licentiate or Associate without submitting full portfolios, subject to age and experience criteria.

10. Documentary Evidence

- Must include published/unpublished works, articles, books, etc.
- Presentation should be efficient, artistic, and technically precise.
- Successful submissions will be archived for reference.

11. Notification of Results

- Candidates will be notified by email within two days of ratification.
- Mark sheets will be sent by post.

12. Successful Candidates

- Certificates awarded at the ISLP AGM.
- Candidates must become Life Members.
- Progression between levels should be gradual, with time taken to develop skills and personal style.

Definition of Monochrome

A monochrome image includes shades of grey from black to white. A black-and-white image toned entirely in a single colour is still considered monochrome. Partial toning or addition of one colour renders the work polychrome.