

MALTA INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY (VO 0438)

(MIPP) QUALIFICATIONS RULES AND REGULATIONS

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General Regulations

These regulations apply to all applicants at any level of qualification.

Application and Submission

1. The Malta Institute of Professional Photography (MIPP) has three levels of qualification namely:
 - a. Licentiate (LMIPP)
 - b. Associate (AMIPP)
 - c. Fellow (FMIPP)
2. This system is progressive.
 - a. All members are encouraged to apply for the LMIPP qualification.
 - b. One can apply directly at the Associate level. Although not a requirement, it is suggested that candidates are to obtain a Licentiate (LMIPP) before applying for Associate level (AMIPP).
 - c. One can apply directly for Fellowship level (FMIPP), but the application must be vetted by the MIPP President and two expert judges in the theme/genre of the FMIPP panel submitted.
3. Applicants must be fully paid-up registered members of the Malta Institute of Professional Photography during the period between and including the application date and qualification date.
 - a. All members are encouraged to apply for the process of qualifications.
 - b. Submissions must be accompanied by a fully completed, signed official application form and the respective application fee. The official application form may be downloaded from the MIPP official website or filled in online.
 - c. To preserve anonymity, a personal reference number will be given to identify each candidate's submission. This number must be noted on the back of each entry of the submitted panel, as well as on the digital images and application form.

- d. The “THEME” and “TITLE” should be identified on the application form. Refer to individual qualification sections (entitled Further Rules and Regulations) for applicable themes.
 - e. Incomplete or incorrect applications will be refused and will need to be re-submitted.
 - f. The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse any qualification applications as it deems necessary.
4. All Qualification submissions are to be accompanied by a full set of images in digital format.
- a. Files must be in JPG format and 3000 pixels on the longest side without any borders.
 - b. No signs or marks should be present on the images.
 - c. All panels remain the property of the respective entrants; however, the MIPP reserves the right to use the digital images for MIPP records, promotional and educational purposes indefinitely. Due credit will be given whenever the images are published.
 - d. The MIPP will not use submitted images for commercial purposes without the author’s consent.
 - e. Each entry must be accompanied by a digital template showing how the panel is to be displayed. This template must be 12 inches wide at 300 dpi and it also needs to be printed for the judging day. It will also be displayed online should the panel be successful. The panel is to be displayed on two rows and can have 10 images per row or 9 and 11 images.
5. All expenses incurred as part of the qualification process are to be borne by the candidate. This includes but is not limited to:
- a. Equipment used

- b. Printing
 - c. Finishing and presentation
 - d. Any postage, where applicable (including return postage).
6. Candidates are advised to pack submissions securely to avoid possible damage.
- a. All submissions are made at the candidate's own risk. The MIPP, whilst taking every reasonable care, cannot be held liable for any loss or damage.
7. All photographs (except printing and/or mounting) must be entirely the work of the entrant.
- a. Digital enhancement and editing techniques are permissible but these must also be entirely the work of the entrant.
 - b. Applicants must ensure that they have all necessary permits, waivers and release forms for their entries. Entries must be the author's original work and not breach any copyright laws.
 - c. It is the personal responsibility of the submitting authors for any claim or liability arising out of the publication or exhibition of their entries as the MIPP categorically disclaims any liability whatsoever.
 - d. The Executive Committee reserves the right to call for additional evidence in support of any application as it deems necessary. Failure to submit such evidence may lead to the refusal of the application.
 - e. Qualified Panels which are later found to have violated any of the qualification rules will be disqualified and the Qualification considered as null and void. The MIPP also reserves the right to take any further disciplinary measures necessary.
 - f. Plagiarism, in all forms, is strictly prohibited and can result in disqualification, even after the Qualification has been awarded.

- * Plagiarism** refers to the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. Entries that are deemed too closely resemble or be similarly derived from the previous work of others can be disqualified at any stage. Where multiple photographs are used to construct a final photograph, all constituent parts must be the original photographic work of the Photographer.
8. There is no restriction on printing methodologies or the use of third parties for printing and mounting. It is encouraged that MIPP sponsors be used when possible.
 - a. If third-party services (such as laboratories) are used, the candidate must accept total responsibility for the quality and finishing of the pictures submitted.
 - b. Print surfaces may be glossy or matte.
 - c. Special photographic print surfaces are also allowed.
 - d. Prints may be presented in colour or black and white, etc.
 - e. The panel cannot contain mixed media, such as different materials on the print. It can however be composed of different mediums, such as colour, monochrome, toned, digital and chemical processes can all be included.
 - f. All submitted evidence, whether in the form of images or the written word, should be presented in a clean, well-finished manner. The inappropriate presentation will not result in disqualification; however, it is to be noted that presentation weighs heavily on the outcome of a judging process.
 - g. At any given point, the entrant may be requested by the organizers to provide the original, unedited file, including EXIF information. Loss of data will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to provide such information. Failure to prove that the entry is an original work of the entrant will automatically incur the disqualification of the submission and/or the loss of a Qualification.
 - h. Although the participant can seek advice and/or mentoring, all the images in the submission must be the original work of the participant, including post-processing. No images done under the supervision of a tutor during workshops etc. can be submitted for a panel.
 9. Qualification sessions are held publicly on an annual or bi-annual basis.

- a. The current MIPP Secretary-General is responsible for coordinating the MIPP qualifications.
 - b. While it is considered to be advantageous for the candidates to be present during the judging process of their panel, this is not obligatory, and candidates may decide not to attend whilst their panel is being assessed.
 - c. The general public may attend Qualification judging.
 - d. Foreign candidates who cannot be present for the Qualification panel must designate another MIPP member to act as their proxy. This member will be responsible for submitting the panel and all other official requirements.
10. Prints are displayed and judged together as a set on a well-lit, neutral background.
- a. The candidate must designate with a diagram the order in which their submission is to be displayed.
 - b. Each entry must be accompanied by a digital template showing how the panel is to be displayed.
 - c. Print Panels are to be displayed and put up by the candidates (or their proxy) in two rows.
 - d. There may be a maximum of eleven works in any one row.
 - e. A maximum of ten minutes is allocated to each candidate to set up the panel.
 - f. The correct number of prints requested must be submitted. Too many or too few will result in automatic disqualification.
 - g. A certificate, given under the common seal of the MIPP, will be issued to each successful candidate. The theme in which the candidate has been successful will be clearly shown on the official certificate.

Submission Process:

Qualification assessment panels are judged bi-annually or annually according to necessity. Candidates should refer to the MIPP newsletter or website regularly to learn when the closing date is announced. This information may also be obtained from the Executive Committee. The MIPP reserves the right to postpone judging of a panel if it is not possible to convene the qualified judges needed.

11. The closing date for application forms and fee submission is usually announced several weeks before the actual judging session. While the theme and other application details need to be specified at this stage, the final panel need not be presented until the Qualification judging session.
12. The MIPP reserves the right to refuse late applications.
13. The complete submission, including the panel, digital images and supporting material must be received or brought by the candidate at the date and time designated by the MIPP. Failure to do so promptly will result in disqualification of the application.

Unsuccessful Applications:

14. The judge who has failed the panel in question to the largest extent will provide feedback after the scores are announced. In the event of a submission being unsuccessful, the judge will provide feedback for the reasons of failure, even if the candidate is not in attendance.
15. The decision of the approved selection panel is final. No appeals are permitted.
16. Judges cannot award a lower qualification should an applicant fail with his chosen submission.
17. Members who have submitted for qualification and have not been successful can resubmit (retaining the same theme) at the successive judging session without incurring a second submission fee. This concession is only given one time.

Further Rules and Regulations for Licentiatehip (LMIPP) Print Qualification

Licentiatehip (L.M.I.P.P) is the first level of qualified membership. It is recognition of a general basic level of skill and competence for professional practice within photography and denotes a good level of style and creative ability.

Licentiatees carry a responsibility for the development of the profession and the MIPP.

During assessment, the judging panel looks for careful selection of the evidence submitted by the candidate, including composition, control and lighting of the subject; the use of sympathetic backgrounds.

Licentiate submissions should also reflect experience and breadth of photographic knowledge.

The submission for L.M.I.P.P. must consist of 20 examples of current photography on a theme chosen from the list on page 12. The panel should naturally also portray general evidence of competence in the foundations of photography, with the importance of photographic technique, composition and technical excellence being what is sought at LMIPP level.

Prints

The size of submitted prints, including any mounting or borders, must not exceed 14 inches on the longest side.

They all must be submitted on lightweight boards. The maximum size of the final submission, including mounting boards and borders, should therefore not exceed 14 x 14 inches.

The overall thickness of each submission (including prints, overlays etc.) must not exceed 7 mm.

Heavy materials (such as hardboard, Perspex or frames) are not permitted.

Assessment of LMIPP Submissions

The candidate's work is examined by a panel, which can comprise of up to five judges or a minimum of three judges. Irrespective of the number of judges, the final score is to be

higher than 85% of the available scores. The judging system allows for the panel to have 100 points per judge.

The judging panel looks for images that show that the applicant is in full control of the medium.

Images should show correct camera technique, full control of lighting and an understanding of quality in the production of the finished image.

The photographer's work should show control of the subjects portrayed and in the case of people, that they are posed in an attractive manner and good expressions obtained.

The images should be presented in such a way that if the judges were members of the public they could not reasonably be rejected. The images should be "of marketable quality".

If a Licentiate Panel is passed by all judges, that particular panel will be awarded a Distinction.

Further Rules and Regulations for Associateship (AMIPP) Print Qualification

Associateship (A.M.I.P.P) is the second level of qualified membership. It is recognition of a sound level of skill and competence for professional practice within photography.

The panel looks for careful selection of the evidence submitted by the candidate, including composition, control and lighting of the subject; the use of sympathetic backgrounds and an awareness of the importance of print material and quality used.

Associateship (A.M.I.P.P.) denotes a high level of technical and creative ability, cohesion and style. Associate submissions should also reflect experience and breadth of photographic knowledge and technique.

Associates are to be considered as a middle-level group and carry the responsibility for the development of the profession and the MIPP.

The submission for A.M.I.P.P. must consist of 20 examples of current photography from the **LIST OF THEMES**. The panel should naturally also portray general evidence of competence in the foundations of photography, as well as creativity, originality and the right use of lighting.

Entrants must submit a statement of intent of not more than 500 words in order to explain the concept/idea behind their panel. This statement will be read before the panel is judged by the participant or his delegate.

Prints

The size of submitted prints, including any mounting or borders, must not exceed 18 inches on the longest side.

They all must be submitted on lightweight boards. The maximum size of the final submission, including mounting boards and borders, should therefore not exceed 18 x 18 inches.

The overall thickness of each submission (including prints, overlays etc.) must not exceed 7 mm.

Heavy materials (such as hardboard, Perspex or frames) are not permitted.

Assessment of AMIPP Submissions

The candidate's work is examined by a panel that can comprise of up to five judges. Irrespective of the number of judges, the final score is to be higher than 90% of the available scores. The judging system allows for the panel to have 100 points per judge.

The general notes for Licentiate submissions also apply to Associate images, but with the added requirement that judges wish to see far more creative interpretation, better choice of location, more thought and faultless technique.

Further Rules and Regulations for Fellowship (FMIPP) Print Qualification

Fellowship (FMIPP) is the third and highest level of qualified membership. It is recognition of a high level of skill and competence for professional practice within photography and allied technologies. Fellowship denotes a high level of technical and creative ability, cohesion and style. Fellowship submissions should also reflect great experience and breadth of knowledge.

Candidates should submit 20 examples of current photography, all of which should portray a single specialist area/subject/theme chosen by the applicant.

Entrants must submit a statement of intent of not more than 500 words in order to explain the concept/idea behind their panel. This statement will be read before the panel is judged.

Prints

The size of submitted prints, including any mounting or borders, must not exceed 18 inches on the longest side.

They all must be submitted on lightweight boards. The maximum size of the final submission, including mounting boards and borders, should therefore not exceed 18 x 18 inches.

The overall thickness of each submission (including prints, overlays etc.) must not exceed 7 mm.

Heavy or thick materials (such as hardboard, Perspex or frames) are not permitted.

Photography Monographs and/or Research Project

A candidate may also apply for Fellowship of the MIPP via submission of a photographic monograph, as well as a research project, specifically the following areas of photography:

- Research in all the aspects encompassing the art & science of photography.
- Research on an individual photographer, school or genre.
- Aspects of the history of photography.
- The conservation and restoration of photographs and photographic material.
- New thinking about photography and photographic theory.

All elements will be considered that make up your monograph or research submission, from the images to the colour of the text of your photography, to the methodology used for research and the presentation in its final form.

Assessment of FMIPP Submissions

The candidate's work is examined by a panel, which can comprise of up to five judges (whenever available) or a minimum of three judges. Irrespective of the number of judges, the final score is to be higher than 95% of the available scores. The judging system allows for the panel to have 100 points per judge.



Fellowship of the MIPP is the highest distinction and recognizes the Fellow member as a master of his/her craft and able to create work of the highest standard both technically and artistically.

LIST OF THEMES FOR LMIPP & AMIPP QUALIFICATIONS

(FMIPP themes are chosen by the applicant but need to be approved by the MIPP)

ABSTRACT ART *	LIFESTYLE *2
ARCHITECTURE	MACRO (GENERAL)
BOOK PUBLICATION	MACRO (NATURE) *3
INTERIORS	MEDIA & PRESS
CHILDREN	NATURE *4
COMMERCIAL	PETS
DIGITAL ART *	RESEARCH PUBLICATION
DOCUMENTARY *1	SPORT
EVENTS	STILL LIFE
FASHION	STREET
FINE ART *	TRAVEL & TOURISM
GLAMOUR	UNDERWATER
HUMAN PORTRAITURE	WEDDING
INDUSTRIAL	WILDLIFE *5
LANDSCAPE & SEASCAPE	

*** Special themes NOT applicable for a LMIPP Qualification**

ABSTRACT ART
DIGITAL ART
FINE ART

* Research Publication and Book Publication submissions are reserved for FMIPP level only.

Further Notes and Definition on Thematic subjects:

***1 Documentary Photography** is a narrative or story being told through photographs that involves real events to provide a factual record or report (and sometimes this is complimented with text).

***2 Lifestyle photography** is a genre of photography that mainly aims to capture images of people in real-life situations, events or milestones in an artistic manner. The primary goal is to tell stories about people's lives or to inspire people in different times.

***3 Macro Nature photography:** refers to photography devoted to displaying close-ups usually of very small subjects in their natural habitat, scenes and textures including landscapes, wildlife and plants. Classically a macro photograph is one in which the finished photograph of a subject is greater than life size. When macro nature will be chosen as a theme, a Nature advisor will be appointed to guide the judging panel.

***4 Nature:** Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals is permissible. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. No techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content are permitted. All adjustments must appear natural.

***5 Wildlife:** Authentic wildlife is defined as one or more organisms, living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Therefore, photographs of zoo animals, game, farm animals, or any living subject taken under controlled conditions are not eligible for Wildlife.

IMPORTANT: In the Documentary, Photojournalism, Sport and Nature themes, only minimal cropping, brightness/contrast and colour correction is allowed. This is to maintain the acknowledged ethical standards of Sport Photography as a journalistic practice and Nature Photography as a pure natural, unaltered practice.

Mentoring Service for MIPP Qualifications

In order for any member to reach the standard required for achieving any of the required qualification levels, it is very important that feedback is sought throughout the entire process. There are various details which can either help or hinder a submission – such details are easily missed by the inexperienced candidate and as such guidance from seasoned MIPP members is of the utmost importance. For this reason, the MIPP offers a mentoring service, which, although optional, is highly recommended.

Application for mentorship should be carried out as follows:

20. Mentors are appointed each year by the Executive Committee. Each applicant may choose a mentor from the ones appointed by the MIPP. The list varies each year, and applicants should submit a query for the list with the MIPP Executive Committee.
21. Once a Mentor is chosen, applicant would need to submit a varied selection of the images to the mentor. These images will form the basis for the final selection on the qualification panel. These images should have already been filtered by the applicant for technical correctness and high quality. An initial variety of around 30 images should be selected and submitted as 10"x8" prints or digital images. It is usually better to submit prints due to the fact that it is easier to evaluate the final result.
22. The mentor will evaluate the image set and return with feedback on the adequacy of the images for submission at the specific level. The mentor will usually also suggest various ways in which the submission may be improved, and may also ask to see more images on a specific style. This process will go on until the mentor feels that the final image set is of the required standard.
23. It is important that the final set of images is shown to the mentor in printed form at least a few weeks before submission, as the Mentor might suggest some further changes to the set based on print quality.

It is important to note that mentoring does not in any way guarantee success of a submission. It is uniquely intended to guide and help applicants with their qualification submissions. Mentors will never commit to the success of a panel since the quality can only be expressed in their opinion. Further to this, mentors are barred from judging any panels which they have mentored.

MIPP mentors offer a very valuable service, and as such the MIPP feels the need to pay a nominal fee for their services. When mentoring service (which is optional) is requested by applicants, a further €50 should be paid in addition to the standard qualification fees. While this fee is but a token compensation for the service rendered by mentors, it does go towards showing an appreciation for such services. This fee is to be paid directly to the mentor chosen.