
THE CHILTERN ASSOCIATION OF CAMERA CLUBS

www.thecacc.org.uk

How to Apply for an 'Award for Photographic Merit'

Introduction

The Photographic Alliance (PAGB) Awards for Photographic Merit (APM) allow individual photographers to have their photographs assessed at nationally managed standards.

There are five award levels:

- Badge (BPAGB). New in 2023 and only for prints, the Badge is judged to the same standards as CPAGB but with fewer entries and a lower pass mark.
- Credit (CPAGB).
- Distinction (DPAGB).
- Excellence (EPAGB). New in 2023 and only for prints, Excellence is judged to the same standards as DPAGB but with a higher pass mark.
- Master (MPAGB).

An applicant must have been a current active member of a Club for defined periods for each Award. All applications must be made through, and be confirmed eligible by, the applicant's local PAGB Federation.

This document explains how applications are managed for members of Clubs in the Chilterns Association (CACC). It is mostly addressed to potential applicants (You). It sets out the steps you need to take to make your application, and hopefully to succeed.

If you have any questions, these must be made to the CACC Awards Officer.

Email: awards@thecacc.org.uk

Gathering Information About the Awards

This document is available on the CACC web site (www.thecacc.org.uk).

The PAGB web site (www.thepagb.org.uk) has information about the Awards for Photographic Merit.

- Read the awards > APM Awards page, and relevant Awards Leaflets on that page.
 - Awards Leaflet 1 and its Supplement describe the Awards, and answer common questions.
 - Awards Leaflet 2 describes how to enter, which will be important later when your application is accepted.
 - Awards Leaflet 3 has the future timetable of assessments. Generally there are two open events per year, which you can attend, and they move around the country. There may be an extra closed event to reduce any waiting list.
- Check the separate Diary page for the list of upcoming venues and dates.

Because there may be changes from time to time, always use a current version of this document, and always refer to current PAGB Awards Leaflets. Do not make and keep copies for future use.

Qualification

The APM are national awards and the PAGB sets the qualification requirements. CACC administers the local process so that application forms sent to the PAGB are eligible.

You qualify by being a current active member of your Club, and by having been so for the times required by the PAGB for each level of Award.

Club: Your Club must be affiliated to the PAGB through CACC. It is possible for a CACC Club to be affiliated to the PAGB through a different Federation, in which case the CACC Awards Officer cannot accept an application from you, and you must follow the procedures of that other Federation.

Current Member: At the time of application, you must be a member of your Club. If you have changed Clubs, then time whilst a member of a previous Club can be included. The previous Club must also have been affiliated to the PAGB. In any case, your application is always made through your current Club.

Active Member: There is no formal definition of 'active', but the purpose of the requirement is that you are likely to have sufficient knowledge and experience of the type of photography and standard required to have a realistic chance of success when you apply for an Award. There is no point in applying if you are not adequately prepared. Your Club has to confirm that you have been active for the time required by the level of Award.

Time: Each level of the Awards has its own requirement to be met at the time of making the application (see Awards Leaflet 1):

- Badge (BPAGB) and Credit (CPAGB): Two years as an active Club member.
- Distinction (DPAGB): Three years as an active Club member.
- Excellence (EPAGB): An active Club member already holding DPAGB.
- Master (MPAGB): Five years as an active Club member. At the time of the assessment, you must have held DPAGB for at least 11 months.

Gathering Your Evidence

You need to gather the evidence needed for your Club to be sure you have met the qualification criteria so that your Club can approve your application to CACC.

Membership: You will know your membership record for your current Club. If you have moved from another Club, and you need to include membership of that other Club to meet the PAGB time requirements, then have your previous details available.

Activity: Clubs vary in the facilities they provide for their members to create and show their photographs. There is no one way and no required way to demonstrate that you have been photographically active for the time required. The following are only examples and it will be for you to assemble a record of your activity using one or more of these categories:

- Club events, including eg, competitions with an external judge or commentator.
- Inter-Club events, either where your photographs have been included or where you have submitted photographs to selectors.
- Federation events, either where your photographs have been included or where you have submitted photographs to selectors.
- PAGB events entered by your Club, or by your Federation via your Club, either where your photographs have been included or where you have submitted photographs to selectors.
- Events where you have submitted photographs as an individual. These may include any local, national or international organisation outside your Club, such as a Federation, the PAGB, RPS, FIAP, BPE, PSA, various Photographer of Year events.

- Any mentoring for the PAGB Awards, including having your photographs advised at a PAGB recognised Awards workshop.
- Attendance at events or exhibitions, especially any directed to Club photography, and including observing at a PAGB recognised Awards workshop.

Club Confirmation

The PAGB relies on confirmation of eligibility devolved to its Federations, such as CACC. CACC confirms that the applicant's Club is affiliated to the PAGB, and then relies on confirmation of eligibility devolved to the Club.

The Club must consider the assembled evidence and confirm to CACC that the applicant is a current active member of the Club, and has been so for the time required by the Award.

The Club must NOT base its confirmation on any opinion of the standard of the applicant's photography, and whether it may or may not meet the standard of any Award.

A Club which is uncertain of its responsibility should consult the CACC Awards Officer. In exceptional circumstances, the CACC Awards Officer may confirm an application.

Application Process

When you are satisfied that you meet the criteria, and have gathered your evidence, and have agreed in principle with your Club that they will confirm the application, then you are ready to proceed.

Print and complete the CACC Application form at the end of this document, and get it countersigned by your Club Chairman or Secretary.

Send the completed CACC Application form to the CACC Awards Officer. A scanned copy by email is suitable.

The CACC Awards Officer checks and retains the CACC form, and sends you a PAGB Application form with the 'Certificate of Qualification' section already completed.

You complete the PAGB Application form, and send this with your payment to the PAGB Awards Officer noted at the bottom of that form.

The PAGB Awards Officer will then liaise with you and provide detailed instructions about the adjudication. These communications are expected to be by email. Make sure you stay contactable.

Other Guidance

You would not enter an examination without knowing the standard and preparing for it. The Awards for Photographic Merit are no different. As a starting point, Awards Leaflet 1 describes the standards for each Award. Being an active Club member makes you eligible to apply: it is not an indication that you might meet the standard.

There are occasional advice workshops as described in Awards Leaflet 2. There is an on-line advisory service as described in Awards Leaflet 6.

The usual entry level is for Badge (BPAGB) or Credit (CPAGB). You would need to be very certain of the standard of your photography to make your first entry at Distinction (DPAGB).

Think carefully about which medium (prints or projected) you will submit. Regardless of the subject matter, you will also be assessed on presentation. Understanding the standard required of your photography also means understanding the level of presentation quality expected.

The PAGB has a waiting list of applications, with a target that nobody has to wait for more than a year. Do not underestimate the work and time involved in gathering photographs to the standard required. It is unwise to apply before you are sure you will have a full set of photographs of the required standard ready at any time. Do not assume you have a year to either reach the standard or have the photographs ready. Last minute cancellations are viewed very disfavouredly.

Audio-Visual

This document is not a full description for submissions in audio-visual. Because there are few such applications, the PAGB would like to receive pre-application expressions of interest. Assessments will only be scheduled when there are sufficient expressions of interest. Express an interest only when you are confident of having the required sequences available. PAGB Awards Leaflet 4 has more information.

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PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit Application Form

Name

Address.....

Post CodeTelephoneMobile.....

Email address

CACC Club *(of which you are currently a member)*

PAGB Award applying for: *(tick one box in Section A and one in Section B)*

A	Badge (prints only)	Credit	Distinction
	Excellence (prints only)	Master	

B	Prints	Projected Digital	Audio Visual
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Audio Visual applications may be made under joint authorship. Refer to the PAGB information.

PAGB Awards already held: (please give details).....

Signature of Applicant **Date**

I have read the guidance concerning eligibility, and confirm that the Applicant is a current member of the Club shown above, and is qualified, by activity and its duration, to apply for the indicated PAGB Award.

Signature of Club Chairman/Secretary..... **Date**

Name of Club Chairman/Secretary.....

Send the completed and countersigned form to the CACC Awards Officer:

Gillian Morgan ARPS DPAGB
42 Highland Road
Amersham HP7 9AY
Email: awards@thecacc.org.uk

Before you submit your application, please ensure you have understood all the relevant information and PAGB Awards Leaflets.