



AFGHANISTAN PHOTOGRAPHERS
ASSOCIATION (APA)

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

July 18, 2020

Kabul, Afghanistan



INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan Photographers Association (APA) is recognized as a benchmark of excellence for professional photographers in Afghanistan, as well as collaborated by industry leaders internationally. With a diverse program and outstanding benefits and opportunities, we support you on your road to excellence as you proceed through our system. Supported by training workshops, mentoring, and seminars, we are committed to providing the tools that you need to enhance your personal, professional, and artistic skills.

Being qualified for APA membership is the first and single most important step that a photographer will ever make along his/her journey of continual career development. Becoming a member at the APA will set your standards needed in this ever-changing industry and help become a part of your professional reputation and reliability. Therefore, this guide is designed to help you get started as you embark on this important journey with us.



ABOUT APA & CORE VALUES

ABOUT APA

Established in 2016, Afghanistan Photographers Association (APA) is a Kabul-based registered cultural and educational organization that is independent, non-profit, and non-political. Center to its arts-based and result-based approach, APA is committed to promoting the art and culture of photography by offering a diverse program, outstanding benefits and opportunities, and essential business resources to help photographers reach their full potential.

CORE VALUES

- Professionalism
- Equality
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Creativity
- Accountability
- Sustainability

APA PROGRAM

- **Training**

APA offers various need-based and demand-driven photography training programs in basic, intermediate, and advanced levels as well as industry-leading skills training to develop and enhance the personal, professional, and artistic skills of photographers in all aspects of photography.

Whether a beginner or an experienced photographer, these training programs can help them make progress in many ways by developing their strong portfolios as well as brands; learning all requirements of modern photography; developing and honing their English language skills, and fostering their sales and marketing skills to flourish in a competitive marketplace.

- **Exhibitions**

APA offers various internal and external group and solo art and photography exhibitions to support and promote artists and photographers in Afghanistan and to encourage them to the professional world of photography by orienting and exhibiting their important artistic works. The exhibitions also intend to raise awareness and promote critical thinking among photographers and the general public in various thematic areas.

APA also holds its annual photo exhibitions open to Afghan and international photographers to support the creation of photographic images around thematic areas (i.e. social issues, development). In doing so, APA reflects on its areas of interest to showcase the best visual journalism and visibility to original projects that examine their subject critically.

- **Grants**

APA offers a limited number of annual grants coupled with intensive mentorship support for Afghan Photographers working in photography and photo-based art. The grants seek to support Afghan photographers to complete or disseminate their personal projects whose body of work may be purely personal photographic imperatives as well as provide them with a platform for exposure and professional development opportunities.

- **Advocacy**

APA offers advocacy programs to advocate the rights of photographers, both Afghan and international, in Afghanistan by promoting and protecting the Copy Right Law through legal framework and across the spectrum of copyright disciplines, including key contacts and legal community and by engaging in active and meaningful collaboration with like-minded organizations on issues that matter most to photographers.



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MEMBERSHIP AT APA

Afghanistan Photographers Association membership is considered one of the finest accolades of a photographer's career. APA accepts membership applications from any passionate and dedicated professional Afghan photographer, with the most successful applicants being chosen - based on merit and excellence - by a highly-experienced jury.

You can apply to become a full member or a provisional member. Full membership is for professional Afghan photographers, and provisional membership is for photographers of "newcomer" status.

Membership application is normally announced on an annual basis. The process of becoming a full member takes a minimum of three months upon the successful submission of your membership form and portfolio.

Once elected as a full member, this confers membership for two years. Otherwise, members are required to renew their membership on an annual basis, including updating their portfolios. Next, membership resignation will be at the request of the photographer, and membership termination will be ensued by APA executives upon any violation of APA rules and regulation, code of conduct, or photojournalism ethics.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Any Afghan photographer meeting the following criteria is eligible for APA membership:

- Be of Afghan citizenship
- Be passionate and committed in the field
- Uphold photographic values and ethics
- Be willing to abide by the APA Code of Conduct and Photojournalism Ethics
- Be able to submit a photography portfolio (20 of own high-quality and captioned images)
- Be able to attend 80% of members' meeting, including membership orientation session in person, in Kabul or online
- Agree to pay a monthly membership fee of AFN 500



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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

In line with its mission, APA provides the best value to its members through membership benefits and opportunities, including membership ID and necessary support and assistance in the form of reference letter and work permit letter.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

APA members enjoy the following unique benefits as part of their membership package:

1. Training and Mentorship

Members can participate in APA training programs to build on their knowledge and skills in all aspects of photography and industry-specific skills. Mentorship support is also gained, in order to foster a collaborative learning environment, and to acquire knowledge from those around them. Members have to meet the prerequisites to be able to attend such training programs.

Furthermore, APA provides its full members with photography assignments when available. It also assists full members with their independent assignments during the assignment procedures or when they are seeking an assignment in terms of application and successful submission.

Please note that this service only applies to full members not provisional members.

2. Affinity program and Events

APA organizes various affinity programs and events, including exhibitions and award festivals throughout the year. APA members receive priority access to these events. APA also supports its deserving and skilled members in participating in the organization's project interventions.

3. Career Development

APA assists its members in developing and enhancing skills in current roles through training workshops, navigating organizational ladders, gaining personal insights into strengths and development needs, and shaping abilities for career advancement.

4. Copyright Affairs

APA is the only professional photographic association in Afghanistan with an intensive advocacy program. With the help of this program, APA lobbies for copyright law and reforms within the legal community, helping its members protect their photographic work and rights.

5. Networking

APA provides members platforms with national and international exposure, both in terms of presenting their work at events, but also connecting and networking with potential organizations, key figures, media channels, and the broader photographer community.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINE

Interested photographers who meet the aforementioned requirements should submit their application package - application form and portfolio - to submit@afghanistanpa.org at the mentioned date in the announcement.

Please note that only selected applicants will be contacted.

Join Us
TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE





CONTACT DIRECTORY

For any questions or concerns, please contact us.

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