

FELLOWS AND LICENTIATES PACK

Licentiateship

Who can apply?

See Article 4(b) which states:

Licentiates shall be practising bookbinders who will actively support the objects of the Society and declare an intention to seek election to Fellowship within a period of up to seven years. Licentiates shall be British born or permanently resident, or have practised in the United Kingdom for at least three years and be resident at the time of application.

How and when to apply.

1. Talk to others first. Show your work to, and seek the advice of, Fellows whenever possible; ask advice after the Bookbinding Competition, ring Fellows up, at lectures etc.
2. Applications Meetings are normally held in February. You will need to fill in and submit the enclosed form at least 4 weeks in advance of that meeting.
3. The application form is included with this pack.

What you will need.

1. A minimum of two bindings representative of your work. It is best not to bring work if you are doubtful; self criticism/selection is seen as a requisite to maintaining standards.
2. Back-up material relevant to the bindings e.g. sketch books, sources of inspiration, and any other reference material you wish to include to support your application, including work in progress.
3. CV.
4. Yourself.
5. Anything else you regard as relevant to your application.

Procedure on the day.

1. You will be notified where and when to attend. You can ask a colleague to be with you if you wish.
2. You will be asked to set out work. Your colleague can help; the Fellows will help if you wish.
3. You are asked to withdraw to give the Fellows an opportunity to inspect work and discuss amongst themselves.
4. You are asked to return to talk about your work and answer any questions that might have arisen. This is informal and is intended to put the applicant at ease. You might be asked if you have a preference for mentors but these are chosen for you.
5. You again withdraw while the vote takes place and mentors are discussed.
6. You return to take your work away.

What happens next?

1. You will receive a phone call, letter, or email from the President to advise you of the outcome. You will be advised of the reasons for the decision if the application is not successful.
2. If successful you will be advised of two mentors who have been chosen for you. Mentors are chosen on the basis of their abilities in an area where you might have weaknesses, for a particular speciality which you might wish to develop and/or for geographical convenience. However, you can request to change and you are free to approach any other Fellow for help or advice.
3. You will need to choose which option to take for progression to Fellowship and advise the President and Secretary of that choice within 6 months. (See details under Application for Fellowship below.)

Your obligations and entitlements as a Licentiate.

1. You are expected to attend meetings, and to involve yourself in the Society. Meetings are an opportunity to get involved with the Society and meet Fellows, while being involved with the Society's activities prepares you for Fellowship responsibilities. In particular, helping with exhibitions is an excellent opportunity to handle books and see the standard of work expected for Fellowship.
2. You can expect to be informed of current activities in which you might wish to become involved.
3. You should endeavour to make full use of the mentoring system; it is there to help you, so talk to your mentors. It is normally expected that you will instigate meetings but the amount of contact is at your discretion. You can of course talk to any Fellow who you feel can help you.
4. You are expected to enter the Bookbinding Competition. This gives an opportunity to hone your skills and for your work to be seen and compared with that of your contemporaries while supporting the Society in its endeavours to encourage new talent.
5. You are entitled to exhibit with the Society (subject to certain space limitations, priorities and selection processes as outlined in Article 8), to an entry on the website and to submit work to the recent bindings section in The New Bookbinder. You may also be asked to submit other online and/or printed content.
6. You are expected to work towards your Fellowship.
7. You undertake to support the Society and its members in word and in deed. You are entitled to equal support from the Society and its members.
8. If you elect to take Route 2 towards Fellowship it will be your responsibility to keep the record of your progress and submissions. This will be signed by the President and another Fellow after each submission. Photographic records of bindings that will not be available at the time of your final application should be kept. Should this record not be available at the time of your final submission then you will have to submit as for Route 1.

NOTE. It will be assumed that you intend to take Route 1 towards Fellowship unless or until you indicate otherwise. In practice this would mean that you could opt to take Route 2 at any time until the 4th year of your Licentiateship as the applications meeting of that year would be the last opportunity at which to submit work for a staged assessment.

9. Note also that when applying for Fellowship you will need to have demonstrated a commitment to the Society by engaging with the mentoring system, entering the competition, helping at exhibitions, attending meetings, joining in events etc. You should keep a written record (Competition Entry Listings, Minutes of Meetings showing your attendance, a signed register of meetings with your mentor, etc).

Fellowship

Who can apply?

See Article 4(a) that states:

Fellows shall be practising bookbinders who will actively support the objects of the Society and make available for exhibition purposes bindings and/or related work. Fellows shall have previously applied for and been accepted as of Licentiate status. Fellows shall be British born or permanently resident, or have practised in the United Kingdom for at least five years and be resident at the time of application.

It should also be noted that (see Article 5a) an applicant may not apply for Fellowship more than three times.

While there is an undertaking when applying for Licentiateship that you intended to apply for Fellowship within a period totalling 7 years it is recognised that circumstances may dictate that the time elapse is greater.

How and when to apply.

1. Talk to others first. It is particularly important to seek the advice of your mentors, but show your work to, and seek the advice of, other Fellows whenever possible; ask after Competition, ring Fellows up, at lectures, etc.
2. Applications Meetings are normally held in February. You will need to fill in and submit the enclosed form at least 4 weeks in advance of that meeting.
3. The application form is included with this pack.

What you will need.

This will depend on which route you have chosen to follow. The options are:

Route 1 (One off assessment)

Once Licentiate status is gained the candidate can apply for Fellowship at any suitable meeting within a five year period. Applicants shall submit, at their own expense and risk, a minimum of three bindings designed and executed by themselves within the last three years. If at the end of this period the candidate does not wish to apply for Fellowship, or is not accepted, a further two year period may be granted which may start immediately or be held over until a later date.

Route 2 (Staged assessment with final submission)

The Licentiate should indicate that they will apply for Fellowship at the end of a five year period during which they will be expected to submit at their own expense and risk a minimum of five books. Three of the books may be submitted within the five year period and will be expected to show a progression towards Fellowship standard though not necessarily be of that standard. A minimum of two books will form the final submission and must be of Fellowship standard for the application to succeed. The final submission will also include written and photographic evidence of all previously submitted books. If at the end of the five year period the candidate does not wish to apply for Fellowship, or is not accepted, they may be granted a further two year period which may start immediately or be held over until a later date. In such cases the final submission must be of three bindings as for route 1.

For Route 1 you will need:

1. A minimum of three bindings representative of your work. It is best not to bring work if you are doubtful; self criticism/selection is seen as a requisite to maintaining standards.
2. Back up material relevant to the bindings, e.g. sketch books, sources of inspiration.
3. Your dossier recording engagement with the Society during your Licentiate status.
4. CV.
5. Yourself.
6. Anything else you regard as relevant to your application.

For Route 2 stage assessment you will need:

1. A binding (or bindings) representative of your work. It is best not to bring work if you are doubtful; self criticism/selection is seen as a requisite to maintaining standards.
2. Your record book and photographic record of previous staged assessments.
3. Back up material relevant to the bindings e.g. sketch books, sources of inspiration.
3. Your dossier recording engagement with the Society during your Licentiate status.
4. CV.
5. Yourself.
6. Anything else you regard as relevant to your application.

For Route 2 final assessment you will need:

1. Two bindings representative of your work. It is best not to bring work if you are doubtful; self-criticism/selection is seen as a requisite to maintaining standards.
2. Your record book and photographic record of staged assessments.
3. Back up material relevant to the bindings, e.g. sketch books, sources of inspiration.
4. CV.
5. Yourself.
6. Anything else you regard as relevant to your application.

NOTE. A failed Route 1 application for Fellowship that has been submitted early, that is prior to the 5th year of Licentiate status, may be regarded and reassessed as a Route 2 staged application. If successful at this level then the applicant would continue by submitting as for Route 2 and would need to keep the records appropriate to that Route.

Procedure on the day.

This is similar to that for Licentiateship, the exception being at stage 4. As it is expected that you and your work will be familiar to the Fellows you may not be asked in for discussion. However, you should make yourself available on the day to answer any questions that the Fellows may wish to put. Whether or not you are asked should not be taken as an indication of success or failure. If the assessment is an interim stage on route 2 then you will be invited into the meeting. You may also elect to address the meeting if you wish.

What happens then?

You will receive a 'phone call, letter or email from the President. If the application fails you will be advised of the reasons and may be given an extension to reapply (if not already used).

Your entitlements and obligations.

1. Fellowship recognises that you have reached the highest level as a practitioner of the craft of Design Binding. This recognition is granted by your peers and is further recognised throughout the world.
2. You will receive a Certificate of Fellowship.
3. You are entitled and expected to submit work to exhibitions, to the DB Website and to The New Bookbinder, and to other online and/or printed publications.
4. You are expected to be and remain active within the Society, to attend meetings and to serve on committees.
5. You should be available to talk to Licentiates and also to undertake the mentorship role if asked.
6. You can accept a nomination as a candidate for the presidency. You may be called upon to deputise for the president. You may be asked to serve as president.
7. You are entitled to equal support from the Society and its members. You should support the Society in word as well as deed.
8. You are expected to behave professionally and to charge prices that do not undermine others.
9. Fellowship is for life or until you feel that you are unable to support the Society and meet your obligations within it. Should you resign or allow your membership to lapse, and then wish to renew your involvement and status with DB, you will be asked to re-apply and submit two (or three) bindings to an applications meeting. In exceptional circumstances those thought not to be fulfilling their obligations within the Society may be asked to step down.

Mentors

1. Mentors are seen as the primary link between the Licentiate and DB so mentors should try and keep in touch with their Licentiates. Mentors should advise the President if a Licentiate is failing to make contact in case there is an underlying problem.
2. Their aim should be to help the Licentiate fulfil their potential; this doesn't necessarily mean providing finite solutions.
3. They have the responsibility of knowing/understanding a Licentiate's work so they can represent the Licentiate during confidential discussions with Fellows prior to voting.
4. They should take some responsibility for letting Licentiates know that they can be involved in forthcoming exhibitions, ABA etc.

Additional notes

Binders invigilating at DB shows that are primarily for their benefit may not claim travel/accommodation expenses as the binder can legitimately claim expenses against their tax. Equally, travel/accommodation expenses should not be allowable for attendance at Fellows & Licentiates meetings, which was part of binders' commitment to DB. However, for attendance at business meetings of the Society, (e.g. Executive meetings) travel expenses should be paid. Ad hoc working parties set up for specific projects must have a budget set beforehand so that any expenses can be covered. Any expenses should be kept to a minimum, for instance by advance booking of tickets and accommodation.

There is a separate information sheet (DB's policy regarding Commission on Sales) that gives some guidelines to pricing and explains the system DB uses for dealing with sales through DB exhibitions.

Application forms for Licentiate and Fellowship are available from the Secretary:
secretary@designerbookbinders.org.uk

Notes re binders, bindings, selection, and selectors for exhibition:

The exhibiting members of the Society are the elected Fellows and Licentiates of the society. From time to time other binders may be invited to exhibit with the society but care should be taken that this does not imply a parity of status, particularly by offering repeat invitations. Selection of bindings for an exhibition is made by the Fellows of the relevant Exhibition Committee. From time to time others may be invited to curate including selection but this should be pre-advised and parameters notified and agreed before an exhibition proceeds. Fees may be required from binders in order to participate in particular exhibitions. These are increasingly required to offset the cost of showing in particular venues or events. DB should be wary when agreeing participation fees that some potential exhibitors may be excluded on grounds of cost. Participation fees should therefore only be applied after full discussion and agreement, at a Fellows meeting, that an exhibition is warranted despite the possibility that it might exclude some exhibiting members.

If a binder is excluded from an exhibition on grounds of cost then equality should be rectified by offering preference in subsequent exhibitions.

If a binding is selected out from an exhibition then all care should be taken to make it possible for a second binding to be offered. If time does not allow, or is unlikely to allow for this, then this should be made clear and agreed between the exhibition members at the initial stages and before an exhibition proposal proceeds.