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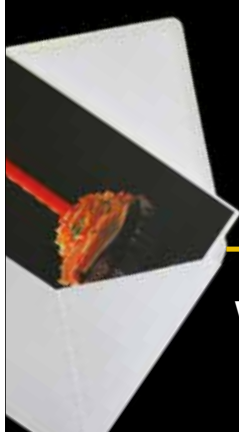
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## Get your LRPS or ARPS with the Exemption scheme

Ed Smith recently achieved his ARPS through the Society's Exemptions. Here he explains how



Hands, from Ed Smith's degree and ARPS portfolio, On These Isles

THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC Society's Exemptions allow those who are already qualified in photography to achieve a Licentiate or Associate Distinction without having to submit a new portfolio of work.

Ed Smith, a 28-year-old photographer from Glasgow, was recently awarded his ARPS through the scheme. In 2011 he graduated with first class honours from the Press and Editorial Photography course at University College Falmouth. This year he decided to apply for a Distinction through the Society's Exemptions scheme.

'I joined the Society first, then filled out the Exemption form,' says Ed. 'I provided a reference from my tutor and a link to my website, which shows my final body of work from the course. It was a really easy process.'

'I see the ARPS as the next step in my career. When you get your degree it seems quite final, and as a freelance photographer you can feel as if you're out there by yourself. But being part of the Society and having my Distinction means I feel part of something that's ongoing.' Although he only recently received his ARPS, Ed has already seen a positive effect. 'It's been really nice to tell potential clients. My Distinction has certainly lifted up some heads and I think it'll help in securing future work.'

A full list of qualifications that are eligible for Exemption can be found on the Society's website, but the course award must be no older than 10 years from the year of applying for Exemption. Fellowships are not eligible.

See more at [rps.org.uk/distinctions/exemptions](http://rps.org.uk/distinctions/exemptions)

#### ATTEND A DISTINCTIONS ASSESSMENT DAY

For the latest dates for Distinctions Assessment Days, please visit [rps.org/events](http://rps.org/events) or [distinctions@rps.org](mailto:distinctions@rps.org) or call 01225 325733

**EXPERT ADVICE** Turn to our member guide on page 807 to find dates for Advisory Days, where you can gain expert advice on your portfolio