



**PLDA**

**Professional Lighting  
Designers' Association**

## **Guide for applying for membership in the Professional Lighting Designers' Association through an interview process with Membership Committee.**

The Professional Lighting Designers' Association was founded to underline the fact that there are differences in the quality of the lighting design currently being affected in the architectural design process and to improve the existing quality of lighting design. Only by the careful examination and classification of new members can the Association aim to define the above mentioned qualities and form an opinion of the members' knowledge and abilities. This in turn enables individuals to establish in which areas they can or need to develop and what further education programmes might be pursued. And it allows all concerned to understand the qualities of the lighting designer applying and what his/her interests are in supporting the development of the association and thus the profession.

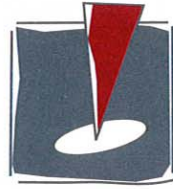
It is, therefore, important that you supply us with certain information, so that we can get to know you, estimate the extent of your experience and expertise and support you accordingly.

*PLDA Membership Group*

Professional Lighting  
Designers' Association e.V. PLDA  
Postfach 3201  
D-33262 Guetersloh

Tel. +49-(0)52 41-307 26-0  
Fax +49-(0)52 41-307 26-40  
info@pld-a.org  
www.pld-a.org

Handelsregister Guetersloh: VR 1005



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## **Interview Format**

The applicant attends an interview with three members of the PLDA Membership Committee and presents the requested project material as outlined below. The interview can take place at the applicant's office, at trade fairs or other PLDA or lighting industry events depending on the group's availability. It is anticipated that the interview will take no longer than forty five minutes.

The applicant is expected to show approximately ten minutes of his/her original concept presentation, table specification schedules and control schedules together with two or three drawings and finish off with three to six photos of the finished project. Abridged projects should be presented with three to six photos each, nothing more.

The materials can presented electronically (please bring a laptop) or as paper copies or a mix of both. Please note that the committee must be able to assess the lighting design process that has taken place for the project. Ideally the candidates should not need to prepare anything extra for this interview. Just bring what they have already done for a project. Please note that the idea of a fully documented project is that the different project deliverables presented come from one project.

The application with the project material will be reviewed by the PLDA Membership Committee during the interview. The committee will document each interview and discuss the applications separately. You will receive official notification of the results of your application from the Head Office. If the committee feels that more information is required for the application to be considered acceptable you will be requested to submit this to the Membership Committee electronically after the interview.

## **Requirements for Applicants**

Candidates for Professional or Associate voting grades must devote the majority of their professional time to lighting design. Voting members must be independent from industry, either a practice owner or employed by an independent lighting design practice, or as specialist within, for instance, an architectural firm. They must work according to a contract and receive a fee paid by the client; no other form of payment is allowed. Voting members may not be employed by a firm who manufacture, represent, install or distribute lighting or related products, nor can they work as electrical engineers. Members in voting grades shall demonstrate a clear professional working practice through the submission of the required design documentation.

A candidate for Professional membership is expected to have worked as an independent lighting designer for a minimum of five years, holding a recognised design qualification or for a minimum of seven years without a relevant qualification. He/she must be able to demonstrate a large variety of experience including high quality projects and may be involved in educational activities. A candidate for Associate membership is expected to have worked as an independent lighting designer for a minimum of three years, holding a recognised design qualification, or for a minimum of five years without a relevant qualification. minimum of three years, holding a recognised design qualification, or for a minimum of five years without a relevant qualification.

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## **Membership category: PROFESSIONAL**

Applicant must attend the interview and bring with them:

1. Completed application form, signed
2. Copy of educational degree/diploma (if relevant);
3. Full curriculum vitae/résumé
4. One completely documented project.
5. Two abridged projects

The applicant must be able to demonstrate that a professional-level lighting design process has been followed when completing the fully documented project. The materials presented to the reviewers must therefore include:

### **FULLY DOCUMENTED PROJECT:**

1. Concept documentation: Can be in the form of: sketches and handdrawings; presentation material, i.e., cut-sheets, renders, artwork, PowerPoint slides; written descriptions, narrative; photographs of mockups etc.
2. Lighting design drawings: provide no more than six supporting drawings, unless absolutely necessary to illustrate project. These can be: layout drawings (plans with equipment positions); detail drawings (design details/luminaires used etc.); sections or elevations.
3. Equipment schedule: detailing luminaires supplied for the project. The schedule should illustrate the designer's understanding of the equipment specified including physical characteristics, lamp type, control gear and line-voltage etc.
4. Control information: for simple schemes, or where appropriate, circuit lines on layout drawings will be sufficient. For larger or more sophisticated schemes, a full control schedule would be expected, demonstrating the designer's understanding of channels/zoning, scenesetting and equipment specified.
5. Lighting calculations: if applicable and prepared for project. For example, hand-prepared estimates to computer isolux plots and renders.
6. Completed project images: photos must be a true representation of the scheme. They do not need to be of professional quality. If fill lighting has been used or the photograph has been manipulated or enhanced, this should be noted. There is no minimum or maximum number of images, but as a guide, the candidate should provide between three and six photos, depending on the project size.

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7. Publications: The candidate should note that publications and articles are not necessary for submission with their application, but if these are available either describing a project submitted for review or demonstrating the candidates' professional competence in any aspect, then publications may help the review process. Please prepare above information so that it can be assessed in a concise format. Do not provide more information than requested; submission of unnecessary information will slow down the review process.

In addition to the above completely documented project, provide two abridged projects.

**ABRIDGED PROJECTS:**

1. Present completed project images for two projects. Photos must be a true representation of the scheme. They do not need to be of professional quality. If fill lighting has been used or the photograph has been manipulated or enhanced, this should be noted with submission. There is no minimum or maximum number of images, but as a guide, the candidate should provide between three and six photos, depending on the project size.

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**Membership category: ASSOCIATE**

Applicant must attend the interview and bring with them:

1. Completed application form, signed
2. Copy of educational degree/diploma (if relevant);
3. Full curriculum vitae/résumé

For Associate level membership: Provide career update plus two abridged projects.

**ABRIDGED PROJECTS:**

Present completed project images for two projects. Photos must be a true representation of the scheme. They do not need to be of professional quality. If fill lighting has been used or the photograph has been manipulated or enhanced, this should be noted with submission. There is no minimum or maximum number of images, but as a guide, the candidate should provide between three and six photos, depending on the project size.

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Please note that the interview process is currently only available in UK in regular basis. However, it is anticipated that application interviews will also be held at the major trade shows such as Light & Building in Frankfurt. Applicants who are not able to attend an interview in UK should follow the standard procedure for written applications.

To request an interview in the UK please contact Sharon Stammers at the PLDA UK Office at: [sharon@sharonstammers.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:sharon@sharonstammers.wanadoo.co.uk)

OR

To request an interview elsewhere please contact Inga Hogrebe at PLDA Head Office at: [ihogrebe@pld-a.org](mailto:ihogrebe@pld-a.org)

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