



**Illumination Engineering Society
of South Africa
Accredited Lighting Practitioner
Application Criteria**

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1 DEFINITIONS

In this *Accredited Lighting Practitioner Application Criteria* document, any expression or word that has been defined in the *IESA Constitution* and *Code of Conduct* has that meaning, and unless the context otherwise indicates:

- a) **“Accreditation”** means the formal recognition granted by IESSA to an individual who meets the ALP criteria and has been approved through the ALP evaluation process;
- b) **“ALP”** means Accredited Lighting Practitioner, being a professional designation awarded by IESSA to a successful applicant;
- c) **“Business undertaking”** means any business enterprise or entity, joint venture, consortium, association or any such organisation or entity;
- d) **“Certification”** means successful completion of a defined IESSA learning pathway resulting in the issuing of an IESSA certificate of completion;
- e) **“CPD”** means Continuous Professional Development, being structured learning or professional participation that contributes toward maintaining competence;
- f) **“Council”** refers to the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee of the *Illumination Engineering Society of South Africa* as defined in the *Constitution, Section 5 - Management*;
- g) **“Code of Conduct”** means the IESSA Code of Conduct, as approved by the Directors;
- h) **“IESSA”** is the reference to the name of the body, the *Illumination Engineering Society of South Africa*;
- i) **“Information”** means illumination related documents and data produced or relied upon by the Registered Person in the performance of work that form a material part of the related works’ records, including competent person or similar appointments, design calculation, simulations, modelling, reports, material or product schedules, photometrics data, drawings, test reports and certificates and inspection certificates, whether electronic format or otherwise;
- j) **“Illumination work”** means the process of applying illumination and scientific principles (based on sound understanding of standards and regulations), concepts, contextual and illumination knowledge to the research, planning, design, implementation, and management of work in both the natural and built environments;
- k) **“LMS”** means the IESSA Learning Management System platform;
- l) **“Practitioner”** means an individual operating within the lighting sector in a technical, design, sales, engineering, compliance, project or implementation role.
- m) **“Registered Persons”** means persons registered in terms of the Constitution, holding a MEMBER (MIESSA) status or higher and have received accreditation as an IESSA lighting practitioner;
- n) **“The Constitution”** means the IESSA Constitution, as approved at the annual general meeting; and
- o) **“Work”** means any illumination related work normally conducted by Registered Persons in the practice of their profession.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Authority and Status of this Document

- 2.1.1 The Illumination Engineering Society of South Africa (IESA) hereby makes known that, in terms of Section 4.6 of the IESSA Constitution, provision is made for the designation of Accredited Lighting Practitioner (ALP);
- 2.1.2 This document defines the Application Criteria, Accreditation Requirements, and Governance Framework applicable to the (ALP) designation;
- 2.1.3 This document shall be referred to as the IESSA Accredited Lighting Practitioner (ALP) Programme and Application Criteria;
- 2.1.4 All prior revisions of the ALP Application Criteria are hereby withdrawn and declared void. The latest approved revision of this document shall come into operation with immediate effect upon adoption by IESSA Council;
- 2.1.5 Every IESSA member is required to conduct their professional and business activities in accordance with the IESSA Constitution and the IESSA Code of Conduct;
- 2.1.6 Accreditation as an Accredited Lighting Practitioner (ALP) shall only be granted to an IESSA member who has fulfilled and continues to adhere to the requirements set out in this document;
- 2.1.7 All Accredited Lighting Practitioners are required to uphold the spirit, intent and ethical standards of the IESSA Constitution and Code of Conduct to preserve public confidence in the integrity, competence and judgment of IESSA and the lighting industry as a whole;

2.2 Purpose of the ALP Programme

- 2.2.1 The purpose of the IESSA Accredited Lighting Practitioner (ALP) Programme is to establish a structured, credible and industry-recognised accreditation framework that recognises individuals who have demonstrated the technical knowledge, practical competence and ethical standing required to operate professionally within the lighting industry;
- 2.2.2 The ALP designation provides a recognised professional benchmark for lighting practitioners involved in the specification, design, implementation, verification and technical application of lighting solutions;
- 2.2.3 The ALP Programme is designed to support:
 - i. the professional development of lighting practitioners;
 - ii. improved technical competence in lighting design and application;
 - iii. structured and progressive industry learning pathways;
 - iv. alignment with applicable standards, compliance requirements and best practice;
 - v. credible recognition of professional competency through IESSA.

3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 Programme Objectives

The objectives of the Accredited Lighting Practitioner (ALP) Programme are to:

- 3.1.1 Promote a structured and measurable learning pathway for lighting professionals;
- 3.1.2 Provide a recognised certification and accreditation system that supports professional progression within the lighting sector;
- 3.1.3 Ensure that accredited individuals demonstrate both theoretical knowledge and applied practical competence;
- 3.1.4 Strengthen technical credibility and quality assurance within the lighting industry;
- 3.1.5 Provide IESSA members with access to recognised practitioner pathways, including specialised fields of lighting practice;
- 3.1.6 Establish a consistent and transparent framework for evaluation, accreditation, renewal and ongoing competence.

3.2 Professional obligations of the ALP's

In addition to meeting the technical and accreditation requirements of this Programme, all Accredited Lighting Practitioners are required to uphold the following professional standards:

- 3.2.1 Conduct their professional activities in a manner that does not prejudice public health and safety;
- 3.2.2 Apply their knowledge and skills in the interests of the public and the environment;
- 3.2.3 Respect the interests of the public and uphold the standing and reputation of the lighting profession;
- 3.2.4 Maintain high standards of objectivity, integrity and professional judgment in their work;
- 3.2.5 Execute their professional duties in accordance with generally accepted norms of professional conduct;
- 3.2.6 Continually strive to improve their professional skills and remain current in their knowledge and application of illumination principles;
- 3.2.7 Encourage excellence within the illumination profession;
- 3.2.8 Exercise scientific caution and recognise the limits of present knowledge in their professional reporting, avoiding exaggeration, sensationalism or superficiality;

- 3.2.9 Disseminate their specialised knowledge responsibly through appropriate technical platforms, acknowledging contributions of others where applicable;
- 3.2.10 Refrain from adverse public comment or criticism of professional colleagues unless such conduct endangers public safety or ethical standards;
- 3.2.11 Not lay false claim to professional qualifications, affiliations, capabilities or accreditation status;
- 3.2.12 Not allow their name or accreditation status to be used in a manner that misrepresents the nature or efficiency of their services.

4 APPLICATION CRITERIA

Application for registration as an Accredited Lighting Practitioner (ALP) will only be considered if the applicant satisfies the criteria set out in this Section 4:

4.1 Membership and Constitutional Compliance

- 4.1.1 The applicant must meet the individual membership requirements as stated under Section 4.5.4 of the IESSA Constitution;
- 4.1.2 The applicant must be a registered IESSA member in good standing and hold a minimum membership status of MIESSA (Member of IESSA) or higher as defined by IESSA.
- 4.1.3 The applicant shall undertake to:
 - i. Abide by all provisions of the IESSA Constitution and Rules, including the Code of Conduct;
 - ii. Comply with the IESSA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Renewal of Registration Rules;
 - iii. Declare that Sections 4.15, 4.16 and 4.17 of the IESSA Constitution do not preclude the applicant from registration;
 - iv. Solemnly declare that all information submitted is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

4.2 Structured Learning Pathway Requirement

The IESSA learning pathway is structured into certificate-based programme levels, culminating in professional accreditation.

ALP accreditation is not automatically granted upon course completion. It is awarded only once the applicant has satisfied the structured learning pathway requirements and the additional eligibility criteria set out below.

4.2.1 Certification Level 1 – Lighting Practitioner (Specialty)

The applicant may complete a Lighting Practitioner certification comprising six (6) core modules:

1. Basic Lighting
2. Advanced Lighting
3. Energy Efficiency Lighting
4. Selected Specialty Module:
 - i. Interior Lighting Design
 - ii. Exterior Lighting Design
 - iii. Lighting for Roads & Precincts
 - iv. Hazardous Lighting Design
5. Photometry
6. Relux Lighting Design

Note: Successful completion results in the credential: IESSA Certified Lighting Practitioner – [Specialty]

4.2.2 Certification Level 2 – Advanced Lighting Practitioner

The Advanced Lighting Practitioner certification comprises the following modules:

1. Basic Lighting
2. Advanced Lighting
3. Energy Efficiency Lighting
4. Interior Lighting Design
5. Exterior Lighting Design
6. Roads & Precincts
7. Hazardous Lighting Design
8. Photometry
9. Relux Lighting Design

Note: Successful completion results in the credential: IESSA Advanced Lighting Practitioner

4.2.3 Pass marks for the courses and to achieve a mark for proficiency to be eligible for an ALP.

0% to 49% - Attended course

50% to 69% - Pass course

70% to 100% - Pass course with Proficiency

4.3 Minimum Competency Pathways for ALP Accreditation

To qualify for ALP evaluation, the applicant must satisfy at least one of the following pathways:

Pathway A –Specialty Route Completion of one (1) Lighting Practitioner specialty certification

OR

Pathway B – Advanced Certification Route Completion of the full Advanced Lighting Practitioner certification

4.3.1 Alternative Recognition Route (Recognition of Prior Learning)

An applicant may alternatively qualify if they:

- i. Hold recognized international illumination practitioner accreditation; or
- ii. Hold a tertiary degree or diploma in illumination; or
- iii. A closely related field obtained within the past ten (10) years and have at least five (5) years continuous relevant lighting industry experience.

Important note:

Certified copies of all credentials must be submitted;
Foreign documentation must include an official English translation.

4.3.2 Extended Experience Route

An applicant may qualify if they:

- i. Have at least ten (10) years' continuous relevant experience in the lighting industry;
AND
- ii. Have completed illumination-related courses within the past ten (10) years;
AND
- iii. Have achieved a minimum aggregate of 200 hours of structured learning;
AND
- iv. Have passed such courses with a minimum proficiency of 70%.

Note: The applicant must submit a detailed schedule of courses attended and copies of certifications.

4.4 Minimum Experience Requirement

All applicants must demonstrate a minimum of five (5) years continuous relevant lighting industry experience.

Supporting documentation may include:

- i. employment history,
- ii. reference letters,
- iii. project portfolio evidence,
- iv. company verification letters.

4.5 Application Submission Requirements

An application will only be considered complete upon submission of:

- i. Completed ALP Application Form;
- ii. Required assignment / portfolio submission;

- iii. Certified copies of qualifications and identification (ID/Passport);
- iv. Signed affidavit or declaration of truth;
- v. Supporting documentation requested by IESSA;
- vi. Proof of course completion where applicable.

4.6 ALP ASSIGNMENT AND PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT

4.6.1 Purpose of the Assignment

- i. The ALP Assignment is designed to ensure that applicants demonstrate practical lighting competency and the ability to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world environments.
- ii. Successful completion of the structured learning pathway alone does not constitute eligibility for accreditation. The assignment forms a mandatory component of the evaluation process.

4.6.2 Assignment Format

- i. Applicants must submit one (1) practical, design-based assignment aligned to their area of declared practice and specialization.
- ii. The assignment must include:
 - a) a defined project brief;
 - b) a clear lighting design intent statement;
 - c) identification and application of relevant standards;
 - d) luminaire selection rationale;
 - e) calculations and compliance considerations;
 - f) lighting simulation outputs;
 - g) energy efficiency considerations;
 - h) a written technical explanation and justification of design decisions.

4.6.3 Software Requirements

- i. Assignments must be completed using Relux lighting simulation software.
- ii. Alternative lighting simulation software may be accepted only with prior written approval from the Development Committee.

4.6.4 Minimum Submission Requirements

- i. The assignment submission must include at minimum:
 - a) one (1) complete lighting design layout;
 - b) one (1) comprehensive technical report;
 - c) one (1) set of calculated lighting outputs;
 - d) one (1) energy efficiency assessment;
 - e) relevant compliance references and interpretation.

Note: Failure to meet minimum submission standards may result in deferral or rejection of the application.

4.7 ALP SPECIALISATION CATEGORIES

4.7.1 Declaration of Specialization

- i. Applicants must declare a primary area of specialisation for accreditation purposes.
- ii. The declared specialisation must align with the applicant's course completion pathway, professional experience and assignment submission.

4.7.2 Specialization Designation

- i. Where approved, the ALP designation may be issued with a specialisation tag, including but not limited to:
 - a) ALP (Interior Lighting)
 - b) ALP (Exterior Lighting)
 - c) ALP (Roads & Precincts)
 - d) ALP (Hazardous Lighting)
 - e) ALP (Photometry & Verification)
 - f) ALP (Lighting Design Simulation)

4.7.3 Council Determination

- i. IESSA Council reserves the right to determine whether the applicant's experience, assignment submission and learning pathway adequately support the declared specialisation.
- ii. Council may:
 - a) approve the declared specialisation; or
 - b) recommend an alternative specialisation; or
 - c) approve accreditation without a specialisation tag where appropriate.

5 EVALUATION, ACCREDITATION AND RENEWAL

5.1 Submission and Initial Review

- 5.1.1 Every application for registration as an Accredited Lighting Practitioner (ALP), irrespective of practitioner specialization, shall be accompanied by a complete assignment submission as prescribed in Section 4.5.1.1.1.1. Every application for registration as a complete assignment submission as prescribed in Section 4;
- 5.1.2 Failure to submit or fulfil the minimum application and assignment requirements shall result in the application being deemed incomplete;
- 5.1.3 Upon receipt of an ALP application, IESSA shall review the submission for completeness. Where the submission is incomplete, the applicant shall be notified and afforded a reasonable opportunity to rectify the deficiency within a prescribed period;
- 5.1.4 The evaluation period shall only commence once a complete submission has been confirmed by IESSA.

5.2 Evaluation Panel and Responsibility

- 5.2.1 A complete submission shall undergo evaluation by at least three (3) IESSA-nominated evaluators or by a formally appointed ALP Evaluation Panel;

5.2.2 Evaluators shall assess the application independently and in accordance with the criteria set out below.

5.3 Evaluation Criteria and Assessment Matrix

5.3.1 The evaluation of the application and assignment shall be based on the minimum criteria set out in Table 1 below and shall ensure compliance with:

- i. the IESSA Constitution;
- ii. the IESSA Code of Conduct;
- iii. the objectives of the ALP Programme.

Table 1: Criteria for application and assignment evaluation

SUBJECT	Exceptionally high quality with innovative thinking	Fully meeting high standards	Adequate, (Occasional amendments)	Frequently requiring amendments	Experience to be developed further
Objective of each assignment task					
Information base used					
Method of problem analysis					
Method of arriving at a solution					
Criteria used in evaluation					
Handling of hazards and/or environmental aspects					
Lighting engineering judgement					
Problem solving ability per assignment task					
Overall problem-solving ability					
Application of lighting principles					
Compliance with regulations					
Communication: Accurate, clear and concise					
Acceptance of responsibility					
Professional conduct					
Completion of relevant courses					

5.4 Minimum Standard for Approval

- 5.4.1 An application shall be considered successful where the combined evaluation of all appointed evaluators results in each listed criterion achieving at least the level of:

“Fully Meeting High Standards.”

- 5.4.2 Where one or more criteria fall below the required standard, the application may be:
- i. Approved with conditions; or
 - ii. Deferred pending improvement; or
 - iii. Declined.

5.5 Evaluation Timeframes

- 5.5.1 IESSA aims to conclude the evaluation process within sixty (60) to ninety (90) days from confirmation of a complete submission;
- 5.5.2 Where additional clarification or documentation is required, the evaluation period may be extended, and the applicant shall be notified accordingly.

5.6 Outcome Determination and Notification

- 5.6.1 Upon conclusion of the evaluation, the applicant shall be notified in writing of one of the following outcomes:
- i. Approved – ALP accreditation granted;
 - ii. Conditional Approval – additional evidence or clarification required;
 - iii. Deferred – resubmission required after addressing specific evaluation feedback;
 - iv. Declined – accreditation not granted.
- 5.6.2 Where an application is unsuccessful, the applicant shall be provided with a summary evaluation feedback report;
- 5.6.3 An applicant who has been unsuccessful may submit a new application after addressing the feedback provided.

5.7 Review of Evaluation Outcome

- 5.7.1 An applicant may request a review of the outcome only where:
- i. an administrative error occurred;
 - ii. material evidence was not considered; or
 - iii. new and relevant supporting documentation becomes available.
- 5.7.2 Following such review, the decision of IESSA Council shall be final.

5.8 Granting of ALP Designation

- 5.8.1 Upon approval, IESSA shall issue:
- i. an official ALP certificate;

- ii. an ALP registration number;
- iii. authorisation to use the approved ALP designation and specialisation (where applicable);
- iv. an ALP card with recorded validity period.

5.8.2 The ALP designation remains the intellectual property of IESSA;

5.8.3 IESSA reserves the right to withdraw accreditation where the practitioner no longer complies with the requirements of this Programme.

5.9 ALP Renewal Requirements

5.9.1 ALP accreditation shall be valid for a period of three (3) years from date of approval.

5.9.2 To maintain ALP status, the practitioner must:

- i. remain an IESSA member in good standing;
- ii. demonstrate continued lighting industry involvement;
- iii. attend IESSA Congress where applicable;
- iv. comply with the IESSA Code of Conduct.

5.9.3 Renewal applications must be submitted within ninety (90) days prior to expiry.

5.9.4 Failure to renew may result in lapses of accreditation and removal from the ALP Register.

6 RULES OF CONDUCT: ETHICS

- 6.1 All ALP-accredited individuals must conduct themselves in a professional manner consistent with IESSA's ethical standards.
- 6.2 Accredited individuals may not:
 - i. misrepresent their accreditation status,
 - ii. use the ALP designation after expiry or withdrawal,
 - iii. issue false claims regarding IESSA certification or endorsement.
- 6.3 Any breach of ethical standards may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or withdrawal of accreditation.

7 ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Renewal and Continuing Professional Development

- 7.1.1 Registered Accredited Lighting Practitioners shall conform to the IESSA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Renewal of Registration requirements;
- 7.1.2 ALP accreditation shall be renewed every three (3) years from the date of initial registration, subject to compliance with Section 5.9 and this Section 7;

- 7.1.3 Within each three (3) year renewal cycle, the practitioner shall demonstrate continued involvement in the lighting industry by:
- i. Attaining a minimum of ten (10) CPD points as prescribed in the IESSA Rules: Continuing Professional Development and Renewal of Registration; and
 - ii. Attending at least two (2) IESSA Congresses within the three (3) year cycle, unless exempted by Council for valid reason.
- 7.1.4 The practitioner shall ensure that all annual IESSA membership fees and any applicable ALP subscription fees are paid in full and remain up to date.

7.2 Lapse of Accreditation

- 7.2.1 Where an IESSA membership is terminated, lapses, or membership fees fall into arrears, the individual's ALP status shall automatically lapse;
- 7.2.2 The ALP designation shall be suspended pending compliance when a practitioner fails to:
- i. renew their accreditation within the prescribed period,
 - ii. meet CPD requirements,
 - iii. maintain required membership standing,
- 7.2.3 IESSA shall notify the practitioner in writing of any lapse or suspension of accreditation status.

7.3 Reinstatement of Accreditation

- 7.3.1 Where accreditation has lapsed due to administrative non-compliance, the practitioner may apply for reinstatement within a period determined by Council, subject to:
- i. settlement of outstanding fees;
 - ii. submission of outstanding CPD evidence; and
 - iii. compliance with renewal requirements.
- 7.3.2 Where accreditation has lapsed for an extended period, or where professional competence cannot be reasonably confirmed, IESSA may require submission of a new ALP application in accordance with Section 4.

7.4 Revocation of Accreditation

- 7.4.1 Accreditation may be revoked by IESSA Council where:
- i. the practitioner is found to have breached the Code of Conduct;
 - ii. false or misleading information was submitted;
 - iii. professional misconduct is established;
 - iv. continued non-compliance persists after notice.
- 7.4.2 Revocation shall be communicated in writing, and the individual shall immediately cease using the ALP designation.

8 RIGHT TO AMEND PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1 IESSA reserves the right to amend the ALP programme requirements, module structure, assessment model, renewal criteria, or evaluation framework from time to time;
- 8.2 Any changes will be communicated to members and will not apply retrospectively unless required for regulatory or governance compliance.

9 ANNEXURES TO THIS AGREEMENT

Annexure A: ALP Application Form