

Introduction

In Western Australia, the Architects Act 2004 (Act) requires that any person carrying out the practice of architecture under the title of “architect” is to be registered with the Architects Board of Western Australia (Board).

In order to become registered in Western Australia a person must meet the following registration requirements as stated in Regulation 12:

- (a) either—
 - (i) hold a qualification obtained as a result of the successful completion of an architectural education course that has been accredited by the Board;
 - (ii) hold a qualification that in the opinion of the Board is equivalent to an accredited course; or
 - (iii) has otherwise attained a standard in relation to the practice of architecture that is acceptable to the Board;
- (b) has been assessed as eligible to sit, and has passed, the Architectural Practice Examination;
- (c) has not been convicted of an offence, whether in Western Australia or elsewhere, the nature of which renders the person unfit to be a registered person; and
- (d) is otherwise a fit and proper person.

Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA)

The Architects Act 2004 allows for the Board to have regard to the advice of the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) in relation to persons who have either obtained a qualification in a place other than in Western Australia or do not have a professional qualification.

AACA is the national organisation responsible for establishing, coordinating and advocating national standards for architects in Australia, and for the recognition of Australian architects overseas by relevant registration authorities.

AACA is constituted of nominees from each of the State and Territory Architects’ Registration Boards in Australia. It is not a registration authority and can only make recommendations to the Registration Boards.

Pathways to Registration

In Western Australia, there are four pathways to registration:

1. mutual recognition;
2. professional qualification from an accredited course;
3. professional qualification from overseas; and
4. no professional qualification.

Which pathway an applicant takes depends on whether the applicant is registered in another Australian jurisdiction or in New Zealand, possesses a professional qualification in architecture or not, and if the professional qualification is from an accredited course or not. A summary of the four pathways to registration is presented on page 6.

1. Mutual Recognition

Applicants who are already registered in another Australian State or Territory, or in New Zealand, are able to register in Western Australia under mutual recognition.

In 2001, Western Australia continued the adoption of the Mutual Recognition Act 1992 of the Commonwealth. Under section 20 of this Act, a person is entitled to be registered as an architect in Western Australia if they are a registered architect in another State or Territory.

In January 2008, the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Western Australia) Act 2007 was proclaimed. This is the formal legislative adoption of the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangements currently operating between all Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand. Consequently, a person registered as an architect in New Zealand is entitled to be registered in Western Australia and vice versa.

To apply for registration under mutual recognition complete Form 02 – Application for Registration in Western Australia under Mutual Recognition which can be downloaded from the Board’s website.

2. Professional Qualification from an Accredited Course

A national system of accreditation has been adopted by all registration authorities in Australia. The accreditation of each architecture course is carried out on a five yearly basis, interspersed with interim visits to the Schools to ensure that the standard of graduates is acceptable to registration authorities.

The Board has accredited the following Western Australian courses until

31 December 2014:

- Master of Architecture, Curtin University of Technology; and
- Master of Architecture, University of Western Australia.

As a national system of accreditation is used throughout Australia, and under licence in New Zealand, the Board is of the opinion that courses that have been accredited under the national system by that jurisdiction's registration authority or been recognised by AACA, are equivalent to a qualification that has been accredited by the Board. A list of accredited Australian architectural qualifications is published on the AACA website www.aaca.org.au.

Please note that the Master of Architecture from the National University of Singapore obtained from July 1999 onwards is recognised by the AACA as equivalent to an approved architectural academic qualification in Australia. The AACA also recognises the Master of Architecture obtained from December 2010 onwards from the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong as being equivalent to an approved architectural academic qualification in Australia.

Applicants with a professional qualification from an accredited course must complete the Architectural Practice Examination (see page 4).

3. Professional Qualification from Overseas

The Board's preferred method of establishing academic equivalence of qualifications obtained overseas (excluding New Zealand) is through the Review of Academic Equivalence (RAE) process or the Review of Graduate Equivalence (RGE) process, both of which are conducted by AACA. These AACA processes are preferred because they are recognised in all Australian jurisdictions.

a. Provisional Assessment

The provisional assessment of overseas qualifications is conducted by AACA. It is an opinion on the status of an academic qualification in terms of equivalency with Australian qualifications. In forming an opinion AACA considers a range of factors including; the education system of the country concerned; the awarding institution; and the level, structure, length and content of the program of study undertaken.

Many intending migrants may receive provisional assessment of their qualifications from AACA as part of the evaluation of their migration application. The provisional assessment is not sufficient for registration purposes. A provisional assessment by AACA must be obtained before an applicant is eligible to undertake the RAE or RGE.

Application forms for a Provisional Assessment may be obtained directly from AACA.

b. Review of Academic Equivalence (RAE)

The RAE is the assessment of overseas academic qualifications through an interview process, in which the interviewers examine

in detail the content of the course leading to the qualification to determine the extent to which it delivers the required competencies. Required competencies are listed in the National Competency Standards in Architecture (NCSA) and form the basis for accreditation of Australian courses as well as the assessment of overseas qualifications. The NCSA can be downloaded from the AACA website www.aaca.org.au.

In order to undertake an RAE, applicants must have access to their student portfolio. The RAE assessment is undertaken in two stages; an evaluation of the course of study made by AACA at its office in Canberra; and an interview with an RAE panel, comprising two assessors.

The outcome of the RAE is a recommendation by AACA as to the equivalence, or not, of a qualification. AACA does not have the power to determine the equivalence of qualifications; that power lies with the Board. The Board considers AACA's recommendation when making its decision about equivalence.

Application forms for an RAE may be obtained directly from AACA.

c. Review of Graduate Equivalence (RGE)

The RGE is the assessment of overseas academic qualifications for those applicants who do not have a student portfolio for the purpose of meeting the academic requirements leading to the process of registration. The RGE assessment is undertaken against the National Competency Standards in Architecture (NCSA) which forms the basis for accreditation of Australian courses as well as the assessment of overseas qualifications. The NCSA can be downloaded from the AACA website www.aaca.org.au.

The RGE process is intended for applicants who hold professional overseas qualifications in architecture, have received a positive AACA provisional assessment, and who have a minimum of 10 years of experience under the supervision of an architect subsequent to graduation from a professional course in architecture. The RGE assessment is undertaken in two stages; an evaluation of degree certificates and transcripts, references and summary of work made by AACA at its office in Canberra; and secondly submission of a portfolio of experience and interview with an RGE panel, comprising two assessors.

The outcome of the RGE is a recommendation by AACA as to the equivalence, or not, of a qualification. AACA does not have the power to determine the equivalence of qualifications; that power lies with the Board. The Board considers AACA's recommendation when making its decision about equivalence.

Application forms for an RGE may be obtained directly from AACA.

d. Equivalence of Qualifications

Upon completion of the RAE or RGE, applicants for registration are invited to apply to the Board for a decision on the equivalence of their qualifications. Please use Form 10 – Equivalence of Qualifications which can be downloaded from the Board's website.

When the advice of AACA, following the RAE or RGE process, is that an applicant's architectural qualifications are equivalent to



an accredited architectural education course, the Board will regard the applicant's qualification as being equivalent i.e. as having satisfied the requirements of regulation 12(a)(ii).

If an applicant is unsuccessful in the RAE or RGE, the Board will, if the applicant so desires, undertake its own assessment in order to determine if the applicant satisfies regulation 12(a)(ii). The Board's assessment will utilise the NCSA as the basis for the assessment. Applicants will be required to provide a portfolio of work that includes work undertaken as an undergraduate, work performed in the practice of architecture since graduation, or a mix of both. Please note that the Board Assessment is unique to Western Australia and is not recognised nationally. More details about the Board's assessment process can be found in Form 10B – Board Assessment of Equivalence of Qualifications or Standard of Practice which can be downloaded from the Board's website.

e. Architectural Practice Examination

Once the Board has determined that an applicant's qualification is equivalent to an accredited course, the Architectural Practice Examination must be completed (see page 4).

4. No Professional Qualification

The Board's preferred method of establishing if an applicant who does not have a professional qualification has attained an acceptable standard in the practice of architecture is through the National Program of Assessment (NPrA) process which is conducted by AACA. This AACA process is preferred because it is recognised in all Australian jurisdictions.

The NPrA assesses an applicant's qualifications using a competency based assessment. Required competencies are listed in the NCSA and form the basis for accreditation of Australian courses as well as the assessment of overseas qualifications. The NCSA can be downloaded from the AACA website www.aaca.org.au.

The NPrA is conducted annually. Applicants are required to have a minimum of seven years work experience in the last 10 years in architecture, planning, building or other related fields, of which three years must be in an architect's office. Applicants who are accepted into the program are required to complete a complex architectural project in the form of a report and companion drawings. The submission is to be carried out within 6 months from the commencement date of the program, and involves a substantial time commitment. Currently, less than 50% of the total number of candidates admitted into the NPrA are successful.

Interested applicants for the NPrA should contact AACA directly or visit their website www.aaca.org.au.

Acceptance of Standard of Practice

Upon completion of the NPrA, applicants for registration are invited to apply to the Board for a decision on the acceptance of their standard in the practice of architecture. Please use Form 20 – Acceptance of Standard of Practice which can be downloaded from the Board's website.

When the advice of AACA, following the NPrA process, is that an applicant has fulfilled the requirements of the NPrA, the Board will regard the applicant as having attained an acceptable

standard in relation to the practice of architecture i.e. as having satisfied the requirements of regulation 12(a)(iii).

If an applicant is unsuccessful in the NPrA, the Board will, if the applicant so desires, undertake its own assessment in order to determine if the applicant satisfies regulation 12(a)(iii). The Board's assessment will utilise the NCSA as the basis for the assessment. Applicants will be required to provide a portfolio of work performed in the practice of architecture. Please note that the Board Assessment is unique to Western Australia and is not recognised nationally. More details about the Board's assessment process can be found in Form 10B – Board Assessment of Equivalence of Qualifications or Standard of Practice which can be downloaded from the Board's website.

Once the Board has determined that an applicant's standard of practice is acceptable, the Architectural Practice Examination must be completed (see below).

Architectural Practice Examination

In addition to holding an approved qualification or having an acceptable standard in the practice of architecture, an applicant must have at least two years practical experience, pass the Architectural Practice Examination and apply to the Board to become registered before being able to use the title "architect".

The Architectural Practice Examination (APE) is conducted in Western Australia twice a year (April/May and August/ October), and is the final qualification required for registration in all States and Territories of Australia.

The APE is conducted in three parts.

Part 1: Eligibility - Examination of Logbook and Statement of Practical Experience

Part 2: National Examination Paper (NEP)

Part 3: Examination by Interview.

Briefing Session

Briefing sessions to assist candidates prepare for the APE are conducted by the Board twice during the year. Dates for the briefing sessions are published on the Board's website. Bookings are essential, so please contact the Board for further information and to make a booking.

Part 1: Eligibility – Logbook and Statement of Experience

Candidates are required to record a minimum of 3000 hours (about 2 years) of practical experience against seven mandatory competencies and submit a Statement of Practical Experience.

It is a requirement of the examination that practical experience be logged in the AACA Log Book. An electronic logbook is available free of charge from the Board's website.

Part 2: National Examination Paper

The National Examination Paper is a one hour, closed book, multiple choice examination. A sample examination paper is available on the AACA website (www.aaca.org.au).

Part 3: Examination by Interview

The examination by interview is conducted by two Board examiners who are experienced practitioners. The interview will take approximately one hour.

More Information

More information about the Architectural Practice Examination can be found on the Board's website.

You can download Information Sheet 11 –Logbook Submission Instructions from the Board's website. To apply for Parts 1 & 2 of the APE, please use Form 12 – APE Parts 1 & 2.

The following AACA documents can be found on their website under "Publications":

- National Competency Standards in Architecture (NCSA);
- A Guide for Candidates (NCSA GC);
- Reference Guide for Candidates (NCSA REF/G); and
- NEP sample paper.

Application for Registration

Upon successful completion of the APE, applicants are invited to apply to the Board for registration. This involves completing the application form, providing supporting documents and payment of the application and registration fees. Please use Form 01 – Application for Registration which is available from the Board's website.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance may be available to overseas trained applicants to cover the cost of undertaking an RAE or the Architectural Practice Examination. Information can be obtained from the Australian Government's Australian Education International website www.aei.gov.au.

Contact Details

Architects Board of Western Australia

33 Broadway
Nedlands WA 6009
Telephone (08) 9287 9920
Fax(08) 9287 9926
Email info@architectsboard.org.au
Web www.architectsboard.org.au

Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA)

PO Box 236
Civic Square ACT 2608
Telephone (02) 6230 0506
Fax(02) 6230 7879
Email mail@aaca.org.au
Web www.aaca.org.au

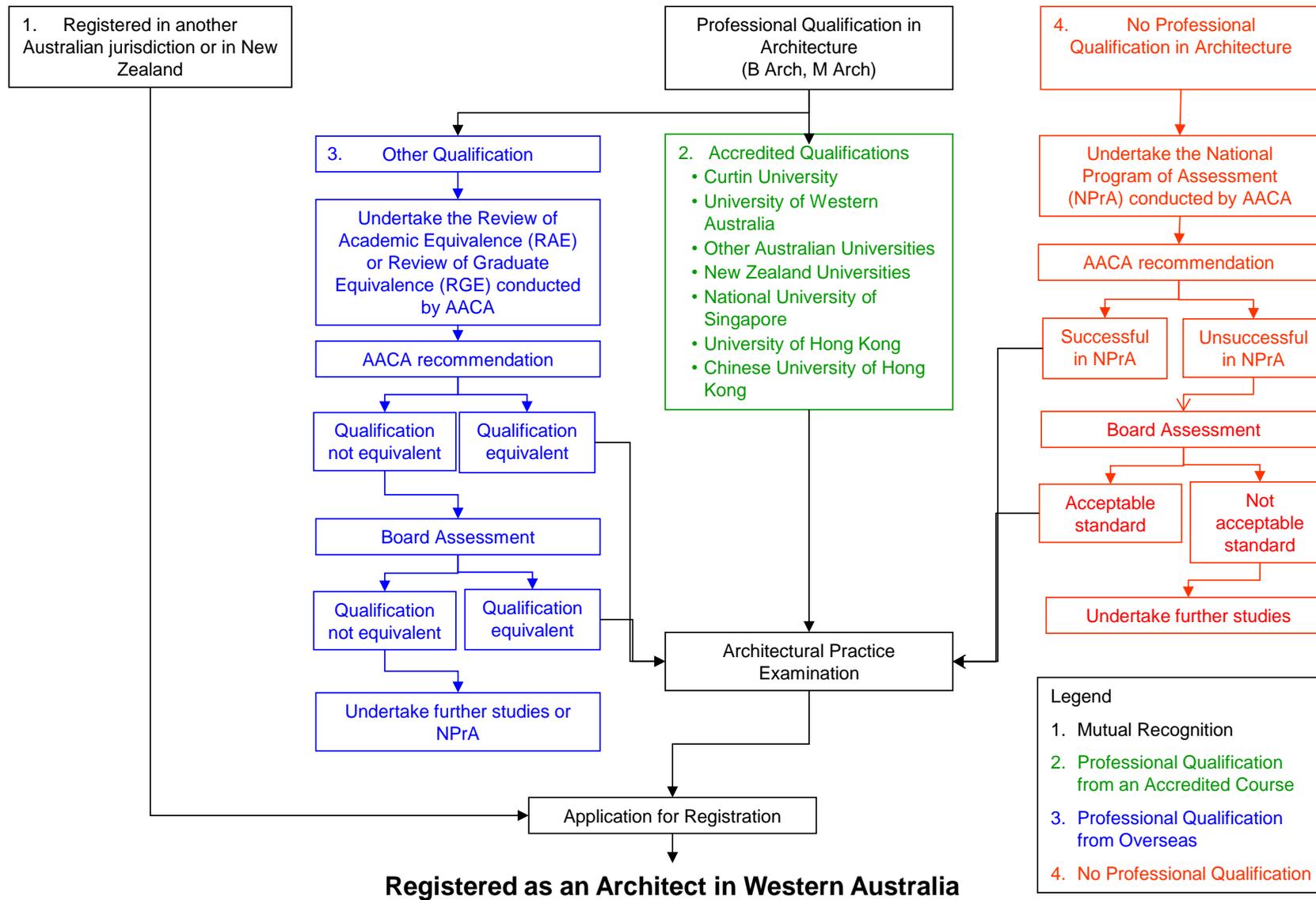


Disclaimer

The content of this information sheet is based upon the best information available at the date of issue and is subject to change without notice. The Board does not accept any liability to any person for the information or the use of this information. Persons requiring an interpretation of the meaning of the Architects Act or Regulations should seek their own legal advice.



Pathways to Registration in Western Australia



Relevant Sections from the Architects Act 2004 and Architects Regulations 2005

Architects Act 2004

10. Functions

The functions of the Board are as follows —

- (a) to administer the scheme of registration and licensing under Part 4;
- (b) to monitor education in architecture, and provide advice on that education to the Minister and to any other person or body involved in that education;
- (c) to accredit architectural education courses for the purposes of registration requirements;
- (d) to promote and encourage —
 - (i) the continuing education of architects in relation to the practice of architecture; and
 - (ii) increased levels of knowledge, skill and competence in the practice of architecture;
- (e) to perform the other functions that are conferred on the Board by or under this Act or any other Act;
- (f) to promote public awareness in relation to the functions of the Board;
- (g) to advise the Minister on matters to which this Act applies.

29. Registration of natural persons

A natural person is to be registered if the person —

- (a) applies to the Board in accordance with section 33; and
- (b) satisfies the Board that the person complies with the requirements prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section in relation to that person.

33. Applications for registration and licences

1. An application for registration or for the grant of a licence is to be —
 - (a) made in writing in a manner and form determined by the Board; and
 - (b) accompanied by —
 - (i) the application fee prescribed by the regulations in relation to the applicant; and
 - (ii) the registration fee or licence fee (whichever is relevant) prescribed by the regulations in relation to the applicant.
2. The applicant is to provide the Board with any further information that the Board requires in any particular case and is to verify the information by statutory declaration if required by the Board to do so.
3. The Board may, in writing, require —
 - (a) an applicant for registration; or
 - (b) an officer of a corporation that is an applicant for the grant of a licence to attend before the Board for the

purpose of satisfying the Board as to a matter relevant to the application and the Board may refuse the application if the person fails to attend as required.

4. In considering any application for registration or for the grant of a licence the Board may —
 - (a) have regard to any information or advice received from the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia, or any other body selected by the Board, in relation to any applicant who has obtained or sought to obtain qualification in a place other than this State; and
 - (b) pay the fees or disbursements necessary to obtain that advice.
5. If, on an application for registration or for the grant of a licence, the Board decides that it will not register, or not grant a licence to, the applicant the registration fee or licence fee referred to in subsection (1)(b)(ii) is to be returned to the applicant.

Architects Regulations 2005

12. Registration requirements

For the purposes of section 29(b), the requirements in relation to a natural person are that the person —

- (a) either —
 - (i) holds a qualification obtained as a result of the successful completion of an architectural education course that has been accredited by the Board under section 10(c);
 - (ii) holds a qualification that in the opinion of the Board is equivalent to such a qualification (after having regard to the advice of the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia where relevant); or
 - (iii) has otherwise attained a standard in relation to the practice of architecture that is acceptable to the Board (after having regard to the advice of the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia where relevant);
- (b) has been assessed as eligible to sit, and has passed, the examinations mentioned in regulation 13;
- (c) has not been convicted of an offence, whether in this State or elsewhere, the nature of which renders the person unfit to be a registered person; and
- (d) is otherwise a fit and proper person.

