

Prescription of qualifications: ARB Criteria at Parts 1, 2 and 3

Introduction

Under the Architects Act 1997, the Architects Registration Board (ARB) has the responsibility for prescribing the qualifications and practical experience required for entry onto the UK Register of Architects.

The General Criteria below describe the subject material that must be covered by students gaining qualifications that are prescribed by ARB at Part 1 and Part 2 levels. The same General Criteria are applied to those seeking to establish the equivalence of non-prescribed qualifications through ARB's Prescribed Examinations. The Professional Criteria at Part 3 set out the additional knowledge and skills that an individual is expected to have in order to register and practise in the UK.

ARB is the UK's competent authority for architects under the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive [2005/36/EC]. The Directive facilitates the recognition of qualifications across the European Union. These General Criteria are consistent with the requirements for qualifications for architects arising from the Directive.

Educational institutions should ensure that they are familiar with the relevant requirements of the Directive and the European Commission's related guidance when designing or changing any qualification in relation to which prescription may be sought. The Commission's guidance includes by way of example a requirement that qualifications must be 'principally' in architecture and guidance as to how to deal with the inclusion of specialisms within qualifications. Further details can be obtained from ARB's Qualifications Department – QualificationsDepartment@arb.org.uk

The General Criteria at Part 1 and Part 2 levels are now explicitly linked to the 11 points that form a part of Article 46 of the Directive. Parts 1 and 2 are differentiated by Graduate Attributes, which reflect the level of learning which must be exhibited by students who achieve prescribed qualifications at Part 1 and Part 2. Using the Graduate Attributes, ARB will determine the general level of attainment of students and the methods of assessment and testing of students. The assessment and testing will be in the context of the course content and delivery, through which the General Criteria should be met.

The requirements for Part 3 are specific UK requirements for registration, and the five Professional Criteria at Part 3 are not fully derived from the Directive. However, elements of these criteria are included within the General Criteria with the effect that professional aspects leading to Part 3 should be contained within courses meeting the General Criteria.

This document should be read in conjunction with ARB's Procedures for the Prescription of Qualifications and, where appropriate, with ARB's Examination Procedures.

The General Criteria and Graduate Attributes at Part 1 and Part 2 levels are included within the QAA's Subject Benchmark Statement and are based upon their level indicators. The General Criteria and Graduate Attributes at Part 1 and Part 2 and the Professional Criteria at Part 3 are also used by the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland for the purposes of admission to membership.

Interpretation of Requirements at Parts 1 and 2

The Criteria comprise three sections as follows:

- **The General Criteria at Parts 1 and 2;**
- **The Graduate Attributes for Part 1; and**
- **The Graduate Attributes for Part 2.**

To interpret the document for Part 1 courses and assessments, the General Criteria at Parts 1 and 2 as a whole, including the numbered subsections, should be read along with the Graduate Attributes for Part 1. Similarly, for Part 2, the General Criteria including subsections should be read along with the Graduate Attributes for Part 2. No weightings are given to the areas within the General Criteria with the exception of Design, which is to constitute at least half of assessed work at Part 1 and Part 2 levels.

The terms 'knowledge', 'understanding' and 'skills' are used in the General and Professional Criteria to indicate the nature of achievement required as the student progresses through qualifications at Parts 1 and 2.

The General Criteria at Part 1 and Part 2

GC1 Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements.

GC1 The graduate will have the ability to:

- .1 prepare and present building design projects of diverse scale, complexity, and type in a variety of contexts, using a range of media, and in response to a brief;
- .2 understand the constructional and structural systems, the environmental strategies and the regulatory requirements that apply to the design and construction of a comprehensive design project;
- .3 develop a conceptual and critical approach to architectural design that integrates and satisfies the aesthetic aspects of a building and the technical requirements of its construction and the needs of the user.

GC2 Adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences.

GC2 The graduate will have knowledge of:

- .1 the cultural, social and intellectual histories, theories and technologies that influence the design of buildings;
- .2 the influence of history and theory on the spatial, social, and technological aspects of architecture;
- .3 the application of appropriate theoretical concepts to studio design projects, demonstrating a reflective and critical approach.

GC3 Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design.

GC3 The graduate will have knowledge of:

- .1 how the theories, practices and technologies of the arts influence architectural design;
- .2 the creative application of the fine arts and their relevance and impact on architecture;
- .3 the creative application of such work to studio design projects, in terms of their conceptualisation and representation.

The General Criteria at Part 1 and Part 2

GC4 Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process.

GC4 The graduate will have knowledge of:

- .1 theories of urban design and the planning of communities;
- .2 the influence of the design and development of cities, past and present on the contemporary built environment;
- .3 current planning policy and development control legislation, including social, environmental and economic aspects, and the relevance of these to design development.

GC5 Understanding of the relationship between people and buildings, and between buildings and their environment, and the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human needs and scale.

GC5 The graduate will have an understanding of:

- .1 the needs and aspirations of building users;
- .2 the impact of buildings on the environment, and the precepts of sustainable design;
- .3 the way in which buildings fit into their local context.

GC6 Understanding of the profession of architecture and the role of the architect in society, in particular in preparing briefs that take account of social factors.

GC6 The graduate will have an understanding of:

- .1 the nature of professionalism and the duties and responsibilities of architects to clients, building users, constructors, co-professionals and the wider society;
- .2 the role of the architect within the design team and construction industry, recognising the importance of current methods and trends in the construction of the built environment;
- .3 the potential impact of building projects on existing and proposed communities.

The General Criteria at Part 1 and Part 2

GC7 Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project.

GC7 The graduate will have an understanding of:

- .1 the need to critically review precedents relevant to the function, organisation and technological strategy of design proposals;
- .2 the need to appraise and prepare building briefs of diverse scales and types, to define client and user requirements and their appropriateness to site and context;
- .3 the contributions of architects and co-professionals to the formulation of the brief, and the methods of investigation used in its preparation.

GC8 Understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design.

GC8 The graduate will have an understanding of:

- .1 the investigation, critical appraisal and selection of alternative structural, constructional and material systems relevant to architectural design;
- .2 strategies for building construction, and ability to integrate knowledge of structural principles and construction techniques;
- .3 the physical properties and characteristics of building materials, components and systems, and the environmental impact of specification choices.

GC9 Adequate knowledge of physical problems and technologies and the function of buildings so as to provide them with internal conditions of comfort and protection against the climate.

GC9 The graduate will have knowledge of:

- .1 principles associated with designing optimum visual, thermal and acoustic environments;
- .2 systems for environmental comfort realised within relevant precepts of sustainable design;
- .3 strategies for building services, and ability to integrate these in a design project.

The General Criteria at Part 1 and Part 2

GC10 The necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations.

GC10 The graduate will have the skills to:

- .1 critically examine the financial factors implied in varying building types, constructional systems, and specification choices, and the impact of these on architectural design;
- .2 understand the cost control mechanisms which operate during the development of a project;
- .3 prepare designs that will meet building users' requirements and comply with UK legislation, appropriate performance standards and health and safety requirements.

GC11 Adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning.

GC11 The graduate will have knowledge of:

- .1 the fundamental legal, professional and statutory responsibilities of the architect, and the organisations, regulations and procedures involved in the negotiation and approval of architectural designs, including land law, development control, building regulations and health and safety legislation;
- .2 the professional inter-relationships of individuals and organisations involved in procuring and delivering architectural projects, and how these are defined through contractual and organisational structures;
- .3 the basic management theories and business principles related to running both an architect's practice and architectural projects, recognising current and emerging trends in the construction industry.

The Graduate Attributes for Part 1

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- GA1 With regard to meeting the eleven General Criteria at Parts 1 and 2 above, the Part 1 will be awarded to students who have:
- .1 ability to generate design proposals using understanding of a body of knowledge, some at the current boundaries of professional practice and the academic discipline of architecture;
 - .2 ability to apply a range of communication methods and media to present design proposals clearly and effectively;
 - .3 understanding of the alternative materials, processes and techniques that apply to architectural design and building construction;
 - .4 ability to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions in order to make and present sound judgments within a structured discourse relating to architectural culture, theory and design;
 - .5 knowledge of the context of the architect and the construction industry, and the professional qualities needed for decision making in complex and unpredictable circumstances; and
 - .6 ability to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required for further professional education.

The Graduate Attributes for Part 2

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- GA2 With regard to meeting the eleven General Criteria at Parts 1 and 2 above, the Part 2 will be awarded to students who have:
- .1 ability to generate complex design proposals showing understanding of current architectural issues, originality in the application of subject knowledge and, where appropriate, to test new hypotheses and speculations;
 - .2 ability to evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, critically appraise and explain design proposals;
 - 3 ability to evaluate materials, processes and techniques that apply to complex architectural designs and building construction, and to integrate these into practicable design proposals;
 - .4 critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design;
 - .5 understanding of the context of the architect and the construction industry, including the architect's role in the processes of procurement and building production, and under legislation;
 - .6 problem solving skills, professional judgment, and ability to take the initiative and make appropriate decisions in complex and unpredictable circumstances; and
 - .7 ability to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required to prepare for qualification as an architect.

Interpretation of Requirements at Part 3

For Part 3 courses and assessments, the Graduate Attributes of the successful candidate are reflected within the introductory paragraphs. The Professional Criteria at Part 3 exist within the paragraphs titled and numbered 1-5. The numbered subsections are for explanation and guidance only and do not form part of the Professional Criteria at Part 3.

The terms 'knowledge', 'understanding', 'ability' and 'skills' are used in the Professional Criteria to indicate the nature of the achievement required.

The Professional Criteria at Part 3

Candidates wishing to sit the Professional Practice Examination in Architecture (Part 3) are normally required to have successfully completed a recognised qualification at Part 1 and Part 2 level, or their equivalent recognised examinations. In addition, candidates are required to have completed the relevant professional practice experience before undertaking the Examination.

Each candidate's experience of learning and development in professional practice will differ, depending upon the type of project, type and location of practice and management processes undertaken, and the preparation for the Examination must therefore be approached in a structured way.

The candidate should manage the relationship between professional experience and academic study to provide coverage of the Professional Criteria, presenting a critically reflective body of work that complies with the requirements of the professional studies adviser or course provider. To meet the Professional Criteria, the candidate's experience should include evidence of commercial awareness, self-management, professional competence and integrity. A successful candidate should also be able to demonstrate authorship, knowledge, effective communications skills, and reasoning and understanding in relation to all issues within the Professional Criteria outlined below.

PC1 Professionalism

A successful candidate will demonstrate overall competence and the ability to behave with integrity, in the ethical and professional manner appropriate to the role of architect. The candidate will have the skills necessary to undertake effective communication and presentation, organisation, self-management and autonomous working. The candidate will have a clear understanding of the architect's obligation to society and the profession, and a sufficient awareness of the limits of their competence and professional experience to ensure they are unlikely to bring the profession into disrepute.

Demonstration of an understanding of the following will contribute to this criterion being met:

- 1.1 Professional ethics
- 1.2 The architect's obligation to society and the protection of the environment
- 1.3 Professional regulation, conduct and discipline
- 1.4 Institutional membership, benefits, obligations and codes of conduct
- 1.5 Attributes of integrity, impartiality, reliability and courtesy
- 1.6 Time management, recording, planning and review
- 1.7 Effective communication, presentation, confirmation and recording
- 1.8 Flexibility, adaptability and the principles of negotiation
- 1.9 Autonomous working and taking responsibility within a practice context
- 1.10 Continuing professional development

The Professional Criteria at Part 3

PC2 Clients, users and delivery of services

A successful candidate will be able to demonstrate understanding of the range of services offered by architects and delivering those services in a manner prioritising the interests of the client and other stakeholders. The candidate will have the skills necessary to provide a competent service, both singly and as part of a team, including understanding of client needs, appropriate communication, programming, coordination and competent delivery. This will be supported by knowledge of the briefing process, forms and terms of appointment, the means of professional remuneration, relevant legislation, and the execution of appropriate programmed and coordinated project tasks.

Demonstration of an understanding of the following will contribute to this criterion being met:

- 2.1 Types of clients, their priorities and the management of the relationship
- 2.2 Briefing, organising and the programming of services appropriate to appointment
- 2.3 Architects' contracts, terms of engagement, scope of services and relevant legislation
- 2.4 Obligations to stakeholders, warranties and third party rights
- 2.5 Communication, progress reporting and the provision of appropriate and timely advice
- 2.6 Budget and financial awareness and cost monitoring or control
- 2.7 Responsibility for coordination and integration of design team input
- 2.8 Invoicing, payment of fees and financial management
- 2.9 Intellectual property rights and copyright law
- 2.10 Duty of care, professional liability, negligence and professional indemnity including insurance

PC3 Legal framework and processes

A successful candidate will be able to demonstrate understanding of the legal context within which an architect must operate, and the processes undertaken to ensure compliance with legal requirements or standards. The candidate will have the skills necessary to positively interact with statutory and private bodies or individuals, and competently deliver projects within diverse legislative frameworks. This will be supported by knowledge of the relevant law, legislation, guidance and controls relevant to architectural design and construction.

The Professional Criteria at Part 3

Demonstration of an understanding of the following will contribute to this criterion being met:

- 3.1 The relevant UK legal systems, civil liabilities and the laws of contract and tort (delict)*
- 3.2 Planning and Conservation Acts, guidance and processes
- 3.3 Building regulations, approved documents and standards, guidance and processes
- 3.4 Land law, property law and rights of other proprietors
- 3.5 Terms within construction contracts implied by statute
- 3.6 Health and safety legislation and regulations
- 3.7 Statutory undertakers and authorities, their requirements and processes
- 3.8 Environmental and sustainability legislation
- 3.9 Historic buildings legislation
- 3.10 Accessibility and inclusion legislation

* Scotland

PC4 Practice and management

A successful candidate will be able to demonstrate understanding of the business priorities, required management processes and risks of running an architectural practice, and the relationship between the practice of architecture and the UK construction industry. The candidate will have the skills necessary to engage in business administration and ability to resource, plan, implement and record project tasks to achieve stated goals, either individually or within a team. This will be supported by knowledge of the nature of legal business entities, office systems, administration procedures and the relevant legislation.

Demonstration of an understanding of the following will contribute to this criterion being met:

- 4.1 The roles of architectural practice in the construction industry
- 4.2 External factors affecting construction and practice at national and international levels
- 4.3 Practice structures, legal status and business styles
- 4.4 Personnel management and employment-related legislation
- 4.5 Practice finance, business planning, funding and taxation
- 4.6 Marketing, fee calculation, bidding and negotiation
- 4.7 Resource management and job costing
- 4.8 Administration, quality management, QA systems, recording and review
- 4.9 Staff development, motivation, supervision and planning
- 4.10 Team working and leadership

PC5 Building procurement

A successful candidate will be able to demonstrate understanding of UK construction and contract law, construction procurement processes and the roles of built environment professionals. The candidate will have the skills necessary to plan project-related tasks, coordinate and engage in design team interaction, execute effective contract communication and resolve construction-related challenges and disputes. This will be supported by an understanding of contractual relationships, the obligations upon an architect acting as contract administrator, job-related administrative systems and the management of projects in the context of the candidate's professional experience.

Demonstration of an understanding of the following will contribute to this criterion being met:

- 5.1 Procurement methods, including for public and larger projects and relevant legislation
- 5.2 The effect of different procurement processes on programme, cost, risk and quality
- 5.3 Collaboration in construction and provisions for team working
- 5.4 Tendering methods, codes, procedures and project planning
- 5.5 Forms of contract and sub-contract, design responsibility and third party rights
- 5.6 Application and use of contract documentation
- 5.7 Roles of design/construction team members and their interaction
- 5.8 Duties and powers of a lead consultant and contract administrator
- 5.9 Site processes, quality monitoring, progress recording, payment and completion
- 5.10 Claims, litigation and alternative dispute resolution methods



Architects Registration Board

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