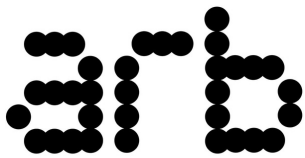


# ARB Criteria and Procedures Review



Architects  
Registration  
Board

# ARB Criteria and Procedures Review

## Our role

ARB was established by an Act of Parliament - the Architects Act 1997 (the “Act”) - and is the statutory regulator of architects in the UK.

ARB’s other statutory duties are contained in the Act and cover six main areas:

- Prescribing the qualifications needed to become an architect in the UK
- Keeping the UK Register of Architects
- Ensuring that architects meet our standards for conduct and practice
- Investigating complaints about an architect’s conduct or competence
- Making sure that only people on our register offer their services as an architect
- Acting as the UK’s competent authority for architects

## Background to ARB's Criteria and Procedures reviews

In line with Section 4(1)a of the Architects Act 1997, the Board is responsible for determining what qualifications and practical training experience are required for entry to the Register under the UK route to registration. In order to ensure that individuals hold appropriate qualifications and practical training experience on entry to the Register, the Board has established a prescription process for recognising qualifications and experience as well as Criteria which must be met at the appropriate level.

The Criteria set out the standards, attributes, knowledge, understanding and abilities that individuals must have met before at the end of each level. The Criteria are therefore important in terms of assuring the users and potential users of architects’ services that individuals who are on the Register have the appropriate minimum levels of skills and expertise. The Criteria also provide information to students and institutions in terms of the areas that must be met in order to demonstrate competence to enter the Register.

The Procedures set out the detailed process which the Board undertakes when dealing with the prescription of a qualification for the first time as well as with renewing prescription of existing prescribed qualifications. The Procedures also set out the details of the annual monitoring process which dovetails with the renewals process. The Procedures are therefore important in terms of assuring the users and potential users of architects’ services that a clear and transparent process for reviewing qualifications exists and assists in ensuring that individuals who are on the Register have the appropriate minimum levels of skills and expertise.

Further information about the current Criteria and Procedures can be found here:



[Criteria for the Prescription for Qualifications](#)

[Procedures for the Prescription for Qualifications](#)

The Board has recently agreed to undertake cyclical reviews of its Criteria for the Prescription of Qualifications and the Procedures for the Prescription of Qualifications.

In order to do this we have established two separate Task and Finish Groups, consisting of technical experts, to lead on these reviews.

## The Board's objectives - Procedures Review

In relation to the review of the Procedures, the Board has agreed that any revised or updated procedures for the prescription of qualifications should enable the Board to:

- Continue to discharge its functions under Section 4(1) a and 4(1) b of the Architects Act 1997;
- Ensure that its processes for prescribing qualifications, renew prescription of existing qualifications, dealing with annual monitoring submissions and course and title changes continue to be clear, transparent, proportionate, efficient and effective;
- Ensure that its processes support the admission of competent individuals to the Register on completion of their studies and practical training experience; and
- Ensure that qualifications, and, where appropriate, experience it prescribes meet the requirements of the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive so that the UK's qualifications can continue to be listed under Annex V of the Directive as well as any additional requirements the Board may wish to set over and above this.

The Board noted and agreed that the review of the Procedures must be based on the Board's current requirements for entry to the Register, which state that individuals must hold Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 qualifications in order to enter the Register. The Board has noted that this element cannot not be reviewed until the Department for Communities and Local Government (ARB's sponsoring Government Department) has confirmed that the Board can progress a review of the UK routes to registration.

## The Board's objectives - Criteria Review

In relation to the review of the Criteria, the Board has agreed that any revised or updated procedures for the prescription of qualifications should enable the Board to:

- Continue to discharge its functions under Section 4(1) a and 4(1) b of the Architects Act 1997;
- Ensure that competent individuals are admitted to the Register on completion of their studies and practical training experience, i.e., setting the standards for entry under the UK route onto the Register; and
- Ensure that the criteria meet the requirements of the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive so that the UK's qualifications can continue to be listed under Annex V of the Directive.

The Board additionally agreed in principle that it wished to continue to hold the Criteria in common with both the Royal Institute of British Architects and Quality Assurance Agency, but that any revised Criteria would need to meet the Board's agreed high level objectives.

The Board agreed that the review of the Criteria must be based on the current requirements for entry to the Register which state that individuals must hold Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 qualifications. It was noted that this element cannot be reviewed until the DCLG had confirmed that the Board could progress a review of the UK routes to registration.