

Who will be eligible to have an application for Prescribed Examination accepted?

Background

This note is to clarify who will generally be eligible to apply for Part 1 and/or Part 2 equivalence through the Prescribed Examination route.

ARB's current position on a candidate's eligibility for examination is predicated upon the candidate's course of study or qualifications being essentially of equivalence to courses which are prescribed by the ARB. This ensures that the knowledge, skills, learning and assessment that would normally be undertaken during an ARB prescribed undergraduate or postgraduate programme in architecture are accounted for, thereby avoiding any need for an equivalent set of tests and assessments as would be undertaken within a prescribed programme which could be both costly and burdensome. The examination process can therefore be a short form test, operated where the prescription process has not been applied, which checks that qualifications equivalent in principle are delivering equivalent outcomes.

Application checks after receipt

On receipt of an application for a Prescribed Examination, the ARB will check that the candidate has been awarded a qualification which is principally concerned with architecture. In order for a candidate to be eligible for the prescribed examination, proof will be required of this qualification's equivalence in terms of content and duration to ARB prescribed courses. These requirements will be mapped and evaluated through documentary evidence provided at the point of entry.

Who is required to provide a university mapping statement?

Where qualifications may have been awarded in subjects such as Architectural Technology, Interior Architecture or similar, a university mapping statement will be required to demonstrate that the candidate has been examined against requirements comparable to those expected at UK Part 1 or Part 2 level. To determine this status, the ARB appoints expert reviewers to assess whether the subjects covered and the level of achievement awarded through the candidate's qualification is suitably comparable to an ARB prescribed award, and that the qualification was principally concerned with architecture. Please note that university mapping statements are unnecessary where a candidate has completed an undergraduate or postgraduate programme which is explicitly focused upon the study of architecture.

What may be accepted as a qualification in architecture?

The expert reviewer will seek to establish whether a qualification reflects equivalence to ARB prescribed undergraduate or postgraduate courses, where 50% of the assessed work will be architectural design projects. European requirements will also need to be satisfied that require at least 80% of the programme is dedicated to architecture. Reviewers will seek to establish that no more than 20% of credit-bearing modules or units are in subjects unrelated to architecture.

Annex E

Applications that do not meet these requirements cannot be progressed, and application documentation will be returned. The full fee is payable before this evaluation takes place. To cover the cost of this assessment and other administration costs, a 25% scrutiny fee will be retained by ARB should the application be unsuccessful.

Can I contact ARB in advance of an application to check if my application will be accepted?

The ARB is unable to provide a definitive indication of eligibility until after a full application (including the fee) has been received. Applications will initially be evaluated by an expert reviewer, therefore confirmation of eligibility in advance cannot be provided.

What will be the route open to me in the event that my application cannot be accepted?

The ARB Prescribed Examination does not provide an alternative route to securing qualifications in architecture. In particular the Procedures, which are the rules of the process, do not facilitate the application of compensation for deficiencies where a curriculum followed does not meet ARB's requirements. Therefore in the event a programme does not meet our requirements we are unable to consider work experience and/or additional periods of study to cover potential differences between candidate's original study curriculum and the requirements of ARB prescribed qualifications.

If an application is not accepted, the candidate will be advised to contact schools of architecture that may provide credit transfer and / or accreditation of prior learning ('APL'). The process of credit transfer is always bespoke to the candidate applying for access to a programme of study. This will often involve assessment of studies already undertaken, an interview and a portfolio review, and ancillary activities.

The school of architecture may thereafter determine the relevance of prior learning to a prescribed programme of architectural study, and advanced standing may be granted. By way of example, candidates may be permitted access to either the second or third year of a prescribed Part 1 programme, according to how much credit the school of architecture can offer. Successful completion of a prescribed programme provides the candidate with a Part 1 accredited qualification. Credit transfer/APL is considered during the Prescription process and Board will have satisfied itself that suitable arrangements are in place to ensure itself that all of the students receiving a prescribed qualification will have met all of the Criteria. The Quality Assurance Agency ('QAA') publishes guidelines on APL which may be found [here](#).