Eligibility Guidance

Introduction

This guidance explains the eligibility requirements for applicants seeking to undertake a prescribed examination under section 4(2) of the Architects Act 1997.

The purpose of the eligibility requirements is not to determine whether an applicant has demonstrated the Academic Outcomes or whether they should be admitted to the Register of Architects.

Those matters are assessed through the prescribed examination itself.

The eligibility requirements are intended to help ensure that applicants have a realistic prospect of successfully demonstrating the Academic Outcomes through the Review and Interview stages of the prescribed examination.

Undertaking the prescribed examination requires a significant investment of time, effort and cost. The eligibility requirements therefore serve an important protective function by helping applicants determine whether they are likely to possess the qualifications, experience and evidence necessary to engage meaningfully with the examination process.

Applicants who do not possess qualifications, training or professional experience of sufficient breadth, complexity or duration are unlikely to be able to provide the evidence necessary to demonstrate the Academic Outcomes successfully. In such circumstances, undertaking the examination is unlikely to be in the applicant's interests.

Prospective applicants are therefore encouraged to consider carefully whether they are able to demonstrate the required standard before applying to undertake the prescribed examination.

Eligibility to undertake a prescribed examination does not imply that the applicant has demonstrated the required standard of competence or that they will be successful in the examination.

2. Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to sit the Prescribed Examination, applicants must demonstrate either:

(a) successful completion of qualifications at Level 7 (RQF) (Master's degree level) in architecture or a relevant discipline;

(b) be registered (or be eligible to be registered) as an architect in another country with which ARB does not have an applicable recognition agreement; or

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(c) hold an accredited UK Part 3 or Practice Outcomes qualification which is recognised by the awarding provider at Level 7 on the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

~~; or~~

~~(b) substantial professional experience demonstrating engagement with architectural practice or the design and procurement of the built environment.~~

Applicants must provide such evidence as ARB may require in support of their application.

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3. Qualifications

3.1 Level 7 (RQF) Qualifications

Applicants may be eligible where they hold qualifications at Level 7 (RQF) or an equivalent standard awarded in the United Kingdom or internationally.

Qualifications may include:

- Master's degrees;
- postgraduate diplomas;
- professional qualifications;
- or other advanced qualifications.

Qualifications do not need to be prescribed by ARB.

ARB will require applicants to provide evidence of their qualifications. Where qualifications were obtained outside the United Kingdom, ARB will require a Statement of Compatibility from UK ENIC (Statement of Comparability | UK ENIC)

3.2 Relevant Disciplines

ARB will normally regard architecture as a relevant discipline.

ARB may also consider qualifications in related disciplines where the applicant can demonstrate substantial engagement with matters relevant to architecture or the built environment.

In determining whether a discipline is relevant, ARB will consider the extent to which the qualification includes subject matter, knowledge and skills relevant to architecture and the built environment and is capable of providing an appropriate foundation for demonstrating the Academic Outcomes.

Relevant disciplines may include, but are not limited to:

- architectural technology;
- urban design;
- landscape architecture;
- interior architecture;
- civil or structural engineering;
- construction management;
- planning;
- or other built environment disciplines.

The existence of a qualification in a relevant discipline does not guarantee that an applicant will be successful in the Prescribed Examination. ~~will not by itself establish eligibility.~~

4. Professional experience

4.1 Professional experience alone does not provide a route to eligibility for the Prescribed Examination. However, once an applicant has been found eligible, evidence arising from professional experience may be used as part of the Review and Interview stages to demonstrate the Academic Outcomes.

5. Authenticity and Verification

ARB may take reasonable steps to verify the authenticity of qualifications, employment history, portfolio material or other evidence submitted in support of an application.

Where ARB reasonably suspects that false, misleading or fraudulent information has been submitted, ARB may:

- reject the application;
- discontinue the examination process;
- refuse registration;
- or take such other legal action as ARB considers appropriate.

6. English Language

Applicants must be capable of communicating effectively in English for the purposes of undertaking the prescribed examination.

Any applicant from a non-English speaking country must be able to speak English to C1 CEFR (Assessment grid - English)

7. Equality and Reasonable Adjustments

ARB is committed to ensuring that the prescribed examination process is fair and accessible.

Applicants with a disability may request reasonable adjustments in accordance with ARB's published reasonable adjustments policy in advance of the examination.

8. ARB Discretion

The Registrar reserves the right to determine eligibility of any applicant, taking into account the individual circumstances of each application and the objectives of the prescribed examination process.