

Commission on professional practical experience in architecture

Terms of Reference

Purpose and Objective

In reviewing the initial education and training of architects, the lack of access to good quality professional practical experience has been identified as a barrier for entry into the architectural profession.

A commission will be established to make recommendations for improving the effectiveness of professional practical experience for architecture students in the UK.

Membership

Members will be invited to join the Commission to represent the views of the profession, students, academia and government.

The work of the Commission will be overseen by a Chair appointed by the Architects Registration Board.

Scope of Work

The Commission will conduct a comprehensive review of the current landscape of practical experience opportunities available to architecture students and others training to become architects across the United Kingdom. This will include:

- a. Reviewing the effectiveness of existing mechanisms for securing practical experience and identify any gaps or challenges faced by students and others training to become architects.

- b.** Evaluating the quality and availability of practical experience for students from diverse backgrounds, including underrepresented groups and individuals with disabilities.
- c.** Identifying best practices from within the UK and abroad and investigating potential collaborations between academia, the architectural profession and other relevant stakeholders.
- d.** Analysing whether changes to the regulatory framework or legislation would improve the quality of practical experience available to students and others training to become architects.
- e.** Considering the role of central funding for architectural training in the context of meeting the Government's objectives in relation to sustainable development, building safety and levelling up.

Resources

The Commission will be funded by the Architects Registration Board, which will provide the secretarial, technical and other support required by the Commission to carry out its work effectively.

Engagement

Through the ARB, the Commission will engage with architecture students, recent graduates and others training to become architects or working in the sector, educators, architectural firms, professional bodies, and other relevant stakeholders through surveys, focus groups, interviews, and public consultations. It will seek input from individuals and organisations with expertise in diversity and inclusion to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by underrepresented groups.

Deliverables

The Commission will complete its work within 12 months and deliver:

- a.** An interim report to ARB outlining its initial findings and recommendations, providing the opportunity for further feedback from stakeholders.
- b.** A final report to ARB outlining its recommendations and proposed actions to improve access to good quality practical experience for architecture students.

- c. Specific recommendations on measures to enhance equity, diversity, and inclusion in practical experience opportunities.
- d. Recommendations, including:
 - Recommendations that are for ARB to take forward within the scope of its powers;
 - Recommendations that may be for the wider sector to take forward, with collaboration from ARB.
- e. A roadmap for implementation, including timelines, responsible entities, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure the effective execution of the recommendations.