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For other information, please visit www.arb.org.uk

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Telephone 020 7580 5861 Facsimile 020 7436 5269 Email info@arb.org.uk



01.

For those considering a career in architecture

Qualifications and training

Architecture in the UK is a regulated profession which means that you must be registered with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) to practise using the title 'architect'. Membership of a professional body is optional but not a substitute for registration.

You will need to have all three qualifications in order to apply for registration together with a minimum of 24 months appropriate [practical training experience](#).

ARB is the [statutory regulator](#) and competent authority for architects in the UK. As a regulator it is ARB's role to maintain the Register of Architects and to ensure that standards within the profession are consistently maintained for the benefit of the public and for architects.

There are three main routes to [registration](#), but typically, if you are studying in the UK, you will:

- take a three-year full time first degree in architecture (often referred to as 'Part 1')
- followed by a year of appropriate professional experience
- then a two-year full time second degree or diploma in architecture (often referred to as 'Part 2')
- followed by a further year of professional experience
- then the Professional Practice Examination – or Part 3

[Links.](#)

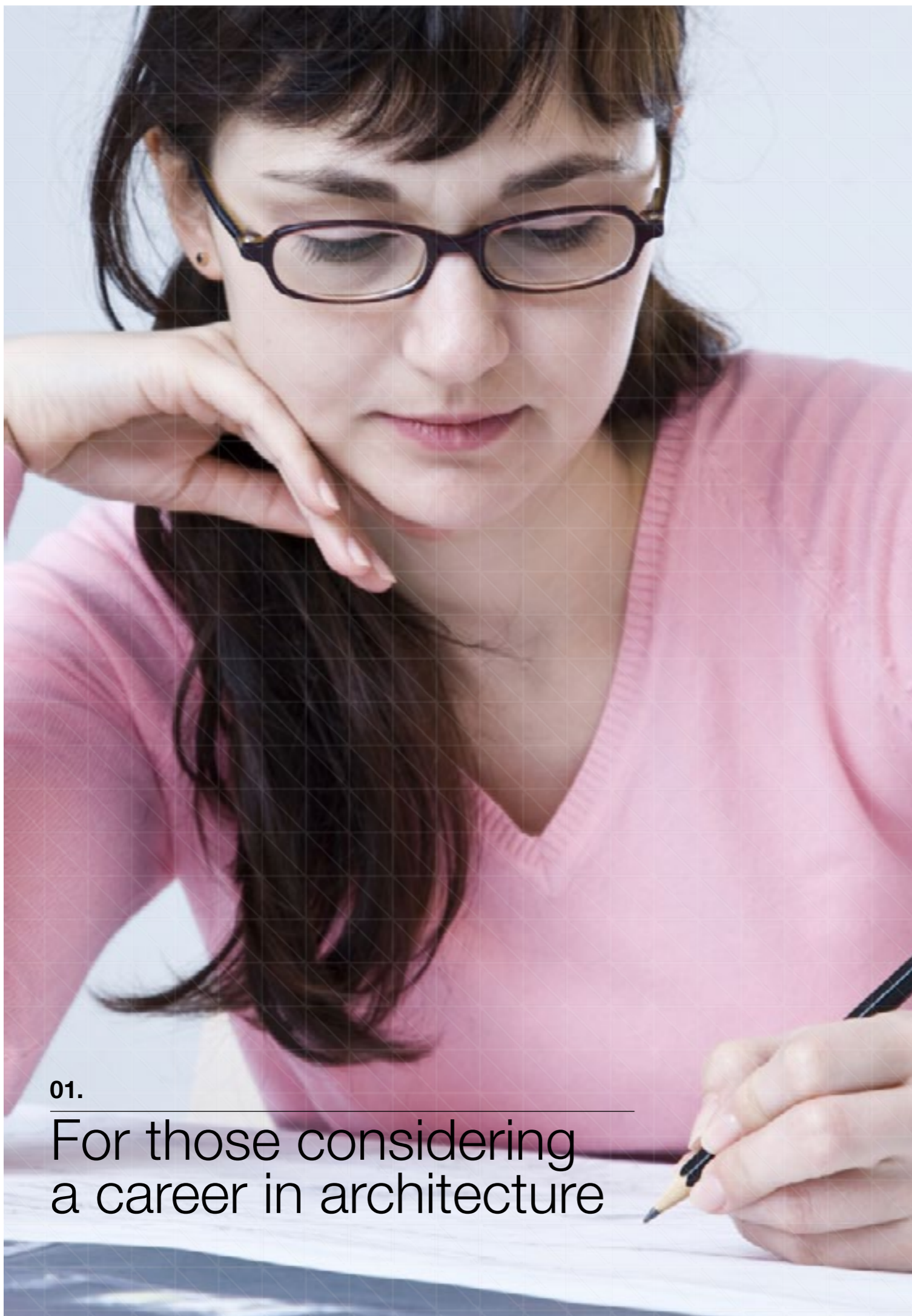
[Statutory regulator](#)

[Registration](#)

[Practical training experience](#)

01.

For those considering
a career in architecture



01.

For those considering a career in architecture

Choosing a course

It is important that you choose qualifications that are [recognised by ARB](#). ARB only prescribes, or directly recognises, qualifications in UK institutions, and those recognised or validated by other bodies will not be acceptable for registration unless they are also recognised by ARB. (There is provision under European Legislation for the [mutual recognition of qualifications](#) within the European Economic Area (EEA) which applies to qualifications listed in Directive 2005/36/EC. If you are thinking of studying in another European state, please contact us for more information.)

Although each course is designed to meet the Board's criteria at the appropriate level, teaching and assessment methods and the range of options available will vary so you should look at these carefully before making a decision about which course to follow. In addition, each institution sets its own entry requirements in terms of subjects to be studied and grades to be achieved and you are advised to contact admissions tutors or course leaders for advice and further information.

Generally, for entry to university you will need Maths and English at GCSE grade C or above but other subjects required at either GCSE or A level will vary from institution to institution. Because the study of architecture is a combination of arts and sciences, universities usually like you to have studied a range of subjects. Some will ask for A level Maths and/or Physics and most prefer you to have studied Art or another design-related subject.

The quickest route (a minimum of seven years in total) is by full time study but there are a number of part time courses available which will take a little longer. There is also an [office-based course](#) for those who have some experience of working in architectural practice and prefer to continue in employment while working towards their exams.

ARB does not require that you take Parts 1, 2 and 3 sequentially (in other words, that you have a Part 1 qualification before enrolling on a Part 2 qualification and so on) but many schools will require this and you should check on their individual entry requirements/entry policies. You will, however, be required to have all 3 qualifications in place in order to apply for registration.

Links.

[Recognised by ARB](#)

[Mutual recognition of qualifications](#)

[Office-based course](#)

01.

For those considering a career in architecture

Changing your career

If you have trained in another discipline or worked in another field and are considering becoming an architect you will still need the academic qualifications (ie Parts 1, 2 and 3) and 24 months of appropriate practical experience.

It is not possible to substitute employment experience for academic qualifications but if you have a degree in a related subject you may be able to reduce the total time spent in study by applying to the institution for credit for prior learning. This is more likely if you are applying to study at Part 1 level and if your qualifications are closely related to architecture. This provision will vary from institution to institution so it is worth contacting more than one if you don't receive a favourable response initially.

Institutions usually have more flexible entry requirements for 'mature applicants' (those over 21). Again, you should contact individual institutions to find out how they can help if you don't hold the qualifications usually asked of school leavers but they will generally ask for some evidence of design ability in the form of a portfolio of work.

[Access courses](#) are available at some universities which allow those without formal qualifications to prepare for study at degree level. [Foundation degrees](#) are for those in work and/or who have completed a level 3 qualification such as an apprenticeship. From a Foundation degree you may be able to progress to a prescribed Part 1 qualification. Again, you may have to negotiate your entry level and this will depend on the content of your Foundation Degree.



Links.

[Access courses](#)

[Foundation degrees](#)

01.

For those considering a career in architecture

Working in the rest of Europe

Once you are eligible to register with ARB, if you are a national of an EEA member state or have acquired Directive rights, you may also be eligible to apply for automatic recognition of your qualifications and registration in other member states within Europe.

If you obtained your qualifications in the UK, you will need:

- ARB prescribed qualifications at Parts 1, 2 and 3,
- which you have acquired following a minimum of four years of full time study at a university or similar institution,
- with a minimum of 24 months appropriate practical experience

If you wish to apply for registration in another member state, the Competent Authority of that state will want to see confirmation that your qualifications are listed and meet the requirements of the Directive and that you are eligible to establish in the UK (in other words, that you satisfy all the requirements for registration in the UK). ARB can provide this confirmation in the form of a [European Certificate](#) for which for which there is a small charge (currently £25).

[Links.](#)

[European Certificate](#)

01.

For those considering a career in architecture

Working in the rest of the world

In the UK, you must be registered to practise using the title 'architect', in other countries you must be registered to set up a practice there or to undertake certain types of work. In some there is no registration process. The position varies from country to country so if you intend to practise outside the UK it is advisable to check individual requirements.

UK qualifications are well-respected in the rest of the world but there are no arrangements for the automatic recognition of UK qualifications outside Europe and you will usually be required to take additional qualifications or undergo some form of assessment for equivalence to local qualifications if you wish to register elsewhere.

[Architects' professional bodies](#) in each country should be able to advise you on the requirements for that country or where you can find further information. Some countries require registration on a state by state basis so you may need to be very precise about where you intend to work.



[Links.](#)

[Architects' professional bodies](#)

01.

For those considering a career in architecture

Study outside the UK

The ARB does not directly prescribe, or recognise for registration purposes, any qualifications outside the UK. While study outside the UK may be beneficial in terms of widening your experience you need to be aware that if you hold overseas qualifications and you wish to register in the UK, you will need to take the ARB [Examination for Equivalence](#) to Prescribed Qualifications at Part 1 and/or Part 2. This is the means by which the Board assesses whether an individual has acquired the same level of skills and knowledge as someone who holds a prescribed qualification at the same level.

There is a [fee](#) for this examination and candidates are [eligible](#) to take it at Part 1 if they have gained a non-prescribed qualification in architecture at first degree level after completing a course of at least three years' full time study or the part time equivalent.

For Part 2, candidates must hold a non-prescribed qualification in architecture at second degree or diploma level which was awarded following at least two years of full time study or the part time equivalent, and which was taken after being awarded a qualification in architecture at first degree level.

If you have studied architecture together with another subject, you may be eligible to take the examination(s) but if you are in doubt or have any questions about eligibility, you should contact the Registration Department.

There are different provisions for study within the EEA. If you wish to study in another EEA country and need further information, please contact us.

[Links.](#)

[Examination for Equivalence](#)

[Fee](#)

[Eligible](#)



02.

Qualifications and training

Qualifications and training Architecture in the UK is a regulated profession which means that you must be registered with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) to practise using the title 'architect'. Membership of a professional body is optional but not a substitute for registration.

You will need to have all three qualifications in order to apply for registration together with a minimum of 24 months appropriate [practical training experience](#)

ARB is the [statutory regulator](#) and competent authority for architects in the UK. As a regulator it is ARB's role to maintain the Register of Architects and to ensure that standards within the profession are consistently maintained for the benefit of the public and for architects.

There are three main routes to [registration](#), but typically, if you are studying in the UK, you will:

- take a three-year full time first degree in architecture (often referred to as 'Part 1')
- followed by a year of appropriate professional experience
- then a two-year full time second degree or diploma in architecture (often referred to as 'Part 2')
- followed by a further year of professional experience
- then the Professional Practice Examination – or Part 3

[Links.](#)

[Statutory regulator](#)

[Registration](#)

[Practical training experience](#)

02.

For architecture students



02.

Choosing a Part 2 course

If you have recently completed or are about to complete your Part 1 course and are thinking about where to take your Part 2, in addition to all the other considerations, it is important that you choose a qualification that is [recognised by ARB](#). ARB only prescribes, or recognises, qualifications in UK institutions, and those recognised or validated by other bodies will not be acceptable for registration unless they are also prescribed by ARB.

Because ARB does not directly recognise qualifications from outside the UK for registration purposes, if you wish to continue your studies outside the EEA, and you intend to register in the UK, you will need to take the [ARB Prescribed Examination](#) at Part 2. This is the means by which ARB assesses whether you have the same level of skills and knowledge as someone who has taken a UK prescribed Part 2 qualification. To be eligible to take the Prescribed Examination at this level you must hold a non-prescribed qualification in architecture at second degree or diploma level which was awarded following at least two years of full-time study or the part-time equivalent, and which was taken after being awarded a qualification in architecture at first degree level.

There is provision under European Legislation for the [mutual recognition of qualifications](#) within the EEA which applies to qualifications listed in Directive 2005/36/EC. If you are thinking of studying in another European state, please contact us for more information.

Links.

[Recognised by ARB](#)

[ARB Prescribed Examination](#)

[Mutual recognition of qualifications](#)

02.

Practical Experience

In addition to your academic qualifications you will also need to complete a minimum of 24 months' [practical experience](#) supervised by a registered architect or other qualified professional working in the construction industry as defined in the Rule.

At least 12 of the 24 months should have been spent working in the EEA (including the UK), the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and it is recommended that a minimum of 12 months is undertaken in the UK. This is because the Part 3 qualification tests UK practice and law and it is likely that candidates with insufficient UK experience will find it difficult to meet the levels of skill and knowledge set out in the [Part 3 Criteria](#).

The experience must also be 'recent' which is defined in the Rule so that at least 12 of the 24 months must have been undertaken in the 24 months immediately before taking the Part 3 exam.

While ARB has no rules about how you should record your experience, most institutions expect students to use the RIBA's [Professional Education and Development Record \(PEDR\)](#) or in certain circumstances, the RIBA's Certificate of Professional Practice.

Your [professional studies](#) adviser (PSA) will be able to advise you about recording your experience as well as its quality and relevance but if you need further guidance please contact us – info@arb.org.uk.

You will need to satisfy the practical experience requirements before taking your Part 3 exam.



Links.

[Practical experience](#)

[Part 3 Criteria](#)

[Professional Education and Development Record](#)

[Professional studies](#)

02.

Choosing a Part 3 course

The structure and assessment methods for qualifications at Part 3 level vary from institution to institution. Some are offered as an MA or MSc, others are shorter update courses. All [prescribed qualifications](#) at Part 3 level meet the ARB Criteria so it is a matter of personal choice taking into account location, attendance and assessment methods. The RIBA has published a useful [summary](#) which will help you to compare assessment, costs and format.

Support from employers also varies and the RIBA has published [guidance](#) for both employers and students.



[Links.](#)

[Prescribed qualifications](#)

[Summary](#)

[Guidance](#)

02.

Working in the rest of Europe

Once you are eligible to register with ARB, if you are a national of an EEA member state or have acquired Directive rights, you may also be eligible to apply for automatic recognition of your qualifications and registration in other member states within Europe.

If you obtained your qualifications in the UK, you will need:

- ARB prescribed qualifications at Parts 1, 2 and 3,
- which you have acquired following a minimum of four years of full time study at a university or similar institution,
- with a minimum of 24 months appropriate practical experience

If you wish to apply for registration in another member state, the Competent Authority of that state will want to see confirmation that your qualifications are listed and meet the requirements of the Directive and that you are eligible to establish in the UK (in other words, that you satisfy all the requirements for registration in the UK). ARB can provide this confirmation in the form of a [European Certificate](#) for which for which there is a small charge (currently £25).

[Links.](#)

[European Certificate](#)

02.

Working in the rest of the world

In the UK, you must be registered to practise using the title 'architect', in other countries you must be registered to set up a practice there or to undertake certain types of work. In some there is no registration process. The position varies from country to country so if you intend to practise outside the UK it is advisable to check individual requirements.

UK qualifications are well-respected in the rest of the world but there are no arrangements for the automatic recognition of UK qualifications outside Europe and you will usually be required to take additional qualifications or undergo some form of assessment for equivalence to local qualifications if you wish to register elsewhere.

[Architects' professional bodies](#) in each country should be able to advise you on the requirements for that country or where you can find further information. Some countries require registration on a state by state basis so you may need to be very precise about where you intend to work.

[Links.](#)

[Architects' professional bodies](#)



03.

Introduction

If you are currently studying for your Part 3 qualification, or are about to start a Part 3 course, the information you need is likely to fall into two distinct categories:

- information about Part 3 courses and registration requirements, including practical experience requirements, which you will need for your own career development; and
- information about the regulation of architects including the Code of Conduct and Practice which forms part of the Part 3 Criteria against which you will be assessed for your professional practice examination



03.

For Part 3 candidates

03.

Eligibility to take a Part 3 qualification

ARB does not require that you take Parts 1, 2 and 3 sequentially (in other words, that you have a Part 1 qualification before enrolling on a Part 2 qualification and so on) but many schools will require this and you should check on their individual entry requirements/entry policies. You will, however, be required to have all 3 qualifications in place in order to apply for registration.

If you do not currently hold prescribed qualifications at Part 1 and/or Part 2 because you have studied outside the UK or you have followed a non-recognised course within the UK, you may be eligible to take the Board's [Examination for Equivalence](#) to Prescribed Qualifications which is the means by which ARB assesses whether you have the same level of knowledge, skills and abilities as someone who has taken a prescribed qualification at the same level.

Candidates are eligible to take the Part 1 examination if they have gained a non-prescribed qualification in architecture at first degree level after completing a course of at least three years' full time study or the part time equivalent.

For Part 2, candidates must hold a non-prescribed qualification in architecture at second degree or diploma level which was awarded following at least two years of full time study or the part time equivalent, and which was taken after being awarded a qualification in architecture at first degree level.

ARB does not require that you take the Prescribed Examination(s) before taking a Part 3 qualification but, again, individual institutions may require this and you are advised to check with the institution concerned.

03.

Part 3 courses and registration requirements

ARB [prescribes](#) (recognises) qualifications at Part 3 level in exactly the same way as it prescribes Part 1 and 2 qualifications.

Part 3 qualifications differ considerably from Part 1 and Part 2 qualifications, however, both in structure and in assessment. One of the primary differences is that as a candidate you will need to be aware of the [Part 3 Criteria](#) against which you will be assessed and ensure that you are demonstrating how you meet those criteria in the work you submit for assessment and the practical experience you undertake.

The RIBA publishes a [summary](#) which will help you to compare Part 3 courses in terms of fees, assessment and format.



[Links.](#)

[Prescribed qualifications](#)

[Part 3 Criteria](#)

[Summary](#)

[Links.](#)

[Examination for Equivalence](#)

03.

For Part 3 candidates

Practical Experience

In addition to your academic qualifications you will also need to complete a minimum of 24 months' [practical experience](#) supervised by a registered architect or other qualified professional working in the construction industry as defined in the Rule.

At least 12 of the 24 months should have been spent working in the EEA (including the UK), the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and it is recommended that a minimum of 12 months is undertaken in the UK. This is because the Part 3 qualification tests UK practice and law and it is likely that candidates with insufficient UK experience will find it difficult to meet the levels of skill and knowledge set out in the [Part 3 Criteria](#).

The experience must also be 'recent' which is defined in the Rule so that at least 12 of the 24 months must have been undertaken in the 24 months immediately before taking the Part 3 exam.

While ARB has no rules about how you should record your experience, most institutions expect students to use the RIBA's [Professional Education and Development Record \(PEDR\)](#) or in certain circumstances, the RIBA's Certificate of Professional Practice.

[Your professional studies adviser \(PSA\)](#) will be able to advise you about recording your experience as well as its quality and relevance but if you need further guidance please contact us – info@arb.org.uk.

You will need to satisfy the practical experience requirements before taking your Part 3 exam.

Links.

[Practical experience](#)

[Part 3 Criteria](#)

[Professional Education and Development Record](#)

[Professional studies](#)

03.

For Part 3 candidates

Working in the rest of Europe

Once you are eligible to register with ARB, if you are a national of an EEA member state or have acquired Directive rights, you may also be eligible to apply for automatic recognition of your qualifications and registration in other member states within Europe.

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Links.

[European Certificate](#)

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For Part 3 candidates

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[Links.](#)

[Architects' professional bodies](#)

03.

For Part 3 candidates

After registration

Once you are on the Register you are expected to maintain your competence to practise in areas relevant to your work. The Board has issued [guidance](#) on what this is and what is involved but if you are a member of the RIBA, and you comply with their CPD requirements (or those of another appropriate professional body) you are likely to satisfy the Board.

The Board does not currently monitor how architects maintain their competence so there is no requirement to submit details of what you are doing but you are advised to keep a record of your activities.

If you resign from the Register for whatever reason and are away for two years or more, should you then wish to reapply, you will have to be able to demonstrate that you have maintained your competence before you can be readmitted. This will be determined by the [Competency Standards Group](#) which is made up of practising architects.

[Links.](#)

[Guidance](#)

[Competency Standards Group](#)

03.

Regulation of architects in the UK

The Architects Registration Board is the independent [statutory regulator](#) and competent authority for architects in the UK. Its roles and responsibilities are governed by statute, the [Architects Act 1997](#) (amended in 2008).

As a regulator, the Board is concerned about standards within the profession and therefore sets standards for entry to the Register, through its prescription process and also for the conduct of those on the Register through its [Code of Conduct and Practice](#). The Board publishes the decisions of all disciplinary cases on its website which will give you an insight into how the Code is applied in practice.

Any questions about the Code and its application and protection of title should be directed to the Professional Standards Department at info@arb.org.uk.

Links.

[Statutory regulator](#)

[Architects Act 1997](#)

[Code of Conduct and Practice](#)



04.

Things we may not be able to help with:

1. Queries about entry requirements for courses

Each school of architecture sets its own entry requirements and these do vary considerably between institutions. If your qualifications and experience do not fit completely with what is being asked for it is always worth contacting the school or admissions tutors direct to discuss your position but ultimately it is the school's decision and not something that ARB is in a position to influence.

2. If you disagree with a decision made by your institution or if you are in dispute with them regarding grades/assessments

We are unable to intervene in these cases. We would advise students in this position, initially, to follow whatever appeals processes are in place in their institution, enlisting the support of their students union and other student organisations like ARCHAOS, if appropriate. Ultimately, there is a right of appeal in certain circumstances to the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (www.oiahe.org.uk) which offers an independent complaints procedure. It can also offer advice about making a complaint.

3. If you have a query about obtaining or renewing a student or employment visa.

This area falls outside our remit and as legislation in this field is complex and constantly changing, we are unable to offer advice. The RIBA may be able to offer guidance and most institutions are able to assist students and potential students with questions they may have about visas, we would also advise applicants to contact the Home Office or visit their website (www.ukvisas.gov.uk).

4. If you are looking for employment or a placement for your practical experience.

Again, this falls outside ARB's remit. The RIBA has its own vacancy service and you will find situations vacant sections in both online and paper versions of the construction press. Your Professional Studies Adviser should also be able to help and advise whether a placement is suitable.

04.

Things we may not be able to help with

05.

Glossary:

| | |
|------|---|
| ARB | Architects Registration Board |
| CRAC | Careers Research and Advisory Centre |
| EEA | European Economic Area (includes the countries of the European Union with Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein) |
| RIAS | Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland |
| RIBA | Royal Institute of British Architects |
| UCAS | Universities and Colleges Admissions Service |
| UK | United Kingdom (includes England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales but excludes the Channel Islands, Isle of Man and other dependent territories) |

05.

Glossary

Further information:

For further general information about careers in architecture:

RIBA: www.architecture.com

RIAS: www.rias.org.uk

Directgov: www.careersadvice.direct.gov.uk/helpwithyourcareer/jobprofiles/

Connexions: www.connexions-direct.com

For information and advice about choosing a course:

UCAS: www.ucas.co.uk

Directgov: www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationandLearning/

[UniversityandHigherEducation/DecidingWheretostudy/](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationandLearning/UniversityandHigherEducation/DecidingWheretostudy/)

DecidingWheretostudy

Connexions: www.connexions-direct.com

These books may be available in your school/college or local library:

CRAC Degree Course Guide – Architecture

Planning and Surveying

Choosing your Degree Course – Brian Heap

University Degree Course Offers – Brian Heap

Contact ARB:

Registration Department – for queries about registration including recognition of EEA and overseas qualifications and the prescribed examinations

Professional Standards Department – for questions about the Code of Conduct and Practice and its application and protection of title

Qualifications Department – for questions about becoming an architect, recognised courses and practical experience

Email: info@arb.org.uk

Tel: 020 7580 5861



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