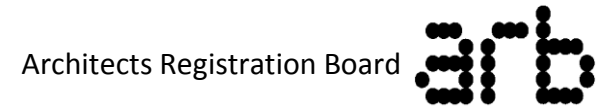


Response Form - Consultation 2011/01



Consultation 2011/01 – Consultation on the cessation of ARB’s ‘Distinguished Achievements’ route to registration.

Response from:

(Name)

(Job Title)

(Organisation)

(Postal address)

(email address)

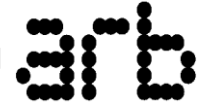
Please complete and return to Architects Registration Board, 8 Weymouth Street, London W1W 5BU, by 30 September 2011

This response form may submitted by email to robw@arb.org.uk or to ARB, 8, Weymouth Street, London, W1W 5BU

Responses may also be returned by fax to 020 7436 5269



Current Procedure	Comments
The Distinguished Achievements route to registration is attached as Annex 1.	The ARB proposes to cease offering this route to registration.



Consultation Questions

We would welcome your general views, specifically in response to the following questions:

1. The Board intention is to cease offering the Distinguished Achievements route. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal? Please provide brief comments to support your answer if possible.

2. The Distinguished Achievements route has by its nature been available to very few applicants. Do you consider that the ARB should offer a comparable but more modern and structured route to registration which is restricted to a very narrow category of registrant? Please provide brief comments to support your answer if possible.

3. The Distinguished Achievements route afforded the possibility of registration to persons who did not always qualify for registration under the ARB's alternative routes, which encompass UK qualifications (Parts 1, 2 & 3); EEA qualifications (qualifications listed in Annex V and Annex VI of the Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC together with the right to access the profession of architect in the state of award) and the ARB's Equivalence route for those who hold qualifications which are not covered by either of the other two routes, but which meet comparable standards in terms of content and duration to UK Part 1 and Part 2 qualifications (the passing of Prescribed Examination at Part 1 and Part 2 level, followed by the completion of a prescribed Part 3 qualification in professional practice and management). Do you consider that these routes offer sufficiently broad coverage so that no alternative route is necessary?

4. Some areas of the world have registration schemes which are incompatible with ARB's equivalence route, often because undergraduate education is in a general liberal arts programme, which is followed by postgraduate education in architecture: where these arrangements apply, there is generally a significant shortfall in the period of architectural education when compared to UK requirements. Do you:

a- consider it is reasonable that persons in this category are required to address this shortfall through further study in the UK if they are to qualify through the Prescribed Examination route?

b- feel that the ARB should consider alternative arrangements for persons in this category, even though they may have completed a significantly shorter educational programme than is required in the UK, or according to the European Commission's guidance on the minimum periods of study necessary for architects?

c- feel that alternative arrangements should apply but only where an applicant has already established as an architect in their country of qualification. If so, how long do you believe that person should have been registered? Would you also suggest any additional requirements?

5. When considering alternative methodologies for determining equivalence, if the ARB were to develop a new route for more experienced practitioners, to maintain some of the characteristics of the Distinguished Achievements route, we would welcome specific comments on the following points:

a- Should access to the route require academic qualifications which mirror the content and duration ordinarily required at Part 1 and Part 2 level in the UK? [A three year-undergraduate degree and a two-year postgraduate diploma/masters-level qualification.]

b- Should the route be open to persons with extensive experience but who hold no qualifications or qualifications substantially lower in level or with significant differences in content than those prescribed by the ARB? If so, how would standards be maintained? Do you consider that this approach is viable?

6. If you are in favour of ARB considering alternative methodologies for registrants:

a- do you feel that the process should be developed by ARB itself or whether the ARB might find a more robust solution to determining equivalent standards of competence through tests and assessments already leading to prescribed qualifications?

b- in either instance, would you favour such a process if it were to be conducted in one session, perhaps structured over one or two days, plus perhaps electronic submissions; or, would it be preferable to mirror prescribed qualifications and assess at Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 levels of equivalence, much as qualifications accumulate towards eligibility for registration?

7. If you are not in favour of ARB considering alternative methodologies for applicants please comment on your reasons:

8. General comments

Please let us have any general comments which are not within the scope of the specific questions asked above as these will also assist us in our consideration of this route.

Please continue on a separate sheet of paper if necessary.