



Consultation 2010.3 – Consultation on General Rule 13(b) (Practical Training Experience Rule)

The Architects Act 1997 places a duty upon the Board to prescribe qualifications and practical training experience. Section 4(1)a states that ‘a person who has applied to the Registrar in the prescribed manner for registration in pursuance of this section is entitled to be registered if he (a) holds such qualifications and has gained such practical experience as may be prescribed...’

Amongst other things, individuals must have undertaken appropriate practical training experience in order to enter ARB’s Register. ARB’s requirements regarding practical training experience are set out in its General Rules under Rule 13b.

As it currently stands, the Rule does not reflect either existing practice or the increasing globalisation of the profession. Currently, the Registrar has discretion to approve experience undertaken outside the EEA or experience that has been supervised by another professional. The proposed new Rule removes the need for the Registrar to approve the location and supervision of the experience and reduces the uncertainty and burden on students who are ultimately looking to register. The proposed amendments to the Rule are also intended to rectify some of the difficulties in applying the existing Rule and shift the emphasis from where and when a student undertakes their practical experience to the quality of that experience and meeting the Part 3 Criteria - http://www.arb.org.uk/qualifications/arb_criteria/default.php - which is the ultimate test.

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has been closely involved in developing the amended Rule. Currently ARB and the RIBA have separate rules regarding practical training experience. However, both bodies intend to hold the Rule in common for the respective processes of registration and membership once it has been approved.

All responses to the consultation will be considered by ARB’s Prescription Committee. The final draft of the Rule will then be progressed through the appropriate ARB processes during early 2011 for approval by the ARB’s Board.

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 **5pm on Monday 20 December 2010**.

This response form is also available to download in Word and pdf format and may be submitted by email to Elaine Stowell at elaines@arb.org.uk. Responses may also be returned by fax to 020 7436 5269.



The proposed Rule 13(b)	Comments
<p data-bbox="92 500 646 532">“Application for Registration – Eligibility</p> <p data-bbox="92 573 814 678">13 The qualifications and practical experience prescribed by the Board pursuant to Section 4(1)(a) of the Act are that the person:</p> <p data-bbox="197 719 831 792">a) holds such qualification(s) as are listed in Schedule 2 to the Rules; and</p> <p data-bbox="197 833 877 1084">b) has recently completed a minimum of 24 months’ practical experience under the direct supervision of a professional working in the construction industry which should include at least 12 months working in the EEA, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, under the direct supervision of an architect.”</p>	<p data-bbox="917 573 1751 638">This part of the Rule has not changed and is not part of the consultation.</p>
<p data-bbox="92 1162 495 1195">For the purpose of this Rule:</p>	
<p data-bbox="92 1239 218 1271">“months”</p> <ul data-bbox="92 1276 884 1482" style="list-style-type: none">• these will be calendar months of full time working (at least 20 hours a week). Reasonable time off for holidays and illness may be included in this period. (Where the work is less than 20 hours per week, applicants will be expected to complete a commensurately longer period of experience	

<p>“practical experience”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experience which consists of activities which would typically be undertaken by an architect in practice. (The Part 3 Criteria are helpful in setting out in broad terms, some of the activities which are likely to be required to be undertaken). 	
<p>“recently”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 12 of the 24 months’ experience should have been undertaken in the two years immediately before taking the Part 3 exam. 	
<p>“direct supervision”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the person supervising should have responsibility for and control over the work being undertaken. (It is unlikely that a person who is not working for the same organisation as the candidate will satisfy this requirement). 	
<p>“professional working in the construction industry”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will be an architect registered in the territory where the experience is being undertaken or a chartered or similarly qualified member of an appropriate professional body. The ‘construction industry’ will include qualified professionals typically involved in the procurement, design and management of the built environment. 	
<p>Guidance on the application of Rule 13(b)</p> <p>Whilst Rule 13(b) states that candidates for registration should have undertaken a minimum of 12 months experience working in the EEA, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man under the supervision of an architect, candidates should note that the UK’s Part 3 qualification tests UK practice and law. Practical experience is an integral element of the Part 3 qualification, and is important in assisting individuals to meet the Part 3</p>	

Criteria against which all Part 3 candidates are assessed.

It is therefore recommended that candidates undertake a minimum of 12 months' experience within the UK, as those whose experience lies solely outside the UK may find it difficult to meet the required level of knowledge and skill.

Candidates must be supervised during their practical experience. 'Direct supervision' is defined above but essentially, the supervisor should have control over and take responsibility for the work being undertaken. While it is acceptable for any professional who is working within the construction industry (as defined above) to supervise up to 12 months of the experience, a registered architect is likely to be in the best position to assist a candidate in acquiring the required levels of skill and knowledge.

The ARB Rule sets out the requirement for registration in the UK. Candidates may find that schools and Part 3 providers have more specific or additional requirements for entry to courses and for examination purposes. In the first instance they should discuss any queries with their professional studies adviser (PSA) who will be able to advise them about the suitability of a placement and whether it is likely to satisfy ARB's and the school's own rules.