

Guide for Overseas Qualified Architects

To work as an Architect in Australia, you must gain recognition of your qualifications and experience by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) before you apply to register with one of the State or Territory Boards. You are required to hold a minimum 5-year tertiary degree that is equivalent to a Master of Architecture degree in Australia. The AACA is only the accrediting body and does not register architects to work in Australia. You must apply directly to the relevant State or Territory Board to register for work once you have gained qualification recognition from the AACA via one of the pathways outlined below.

Steps:

- ☐ Gain accreditation of your qualifications via one of the following pathways:
 - ☐ Mutual recognition
 - ☐ Overseas qualification assessment + Architectural Practice Exam
 - ☐ National Program of Assessment + Architectural Practice Exam
 - ☐ Experienced Practitioner Assessment - Overseas
- ☐ Register with the State or Territory you wish to work.

Required Documents (where applicable): Documents in a language other than English must be submitted with certified translated copies. The translator (if outside of Australia) must be authorised by the International Federation of Translators. Translators in Australia must be NAATI accredited.

- ☐ Scanned original of certificate of tertiary qualifications
- ☐ Scanned original of academic transcripts
- ☐ Statutory Declaration Form
- ☐ English Language Proficiency Test results
- ☐ CV/ REsume including academic and professional project experience
- ☐ Evidence of registration as an Architect (if applicable)
- ☐ Evidence of name change (if applicable)
- ☐ Third party authorisation letter (if using a migration agent)
- ☐ Scanned ID documents

For the competency interview:

- ☐ Portfolio including 3 to 4 architectural projects demonstrating key competencies
- ☐ National Standard of Competency for Architects (NSCA) Summary Statements
- ☐ Project Summary Proformas

Essential Information:

- Overseas Qualification Assessment: fees - AUD4900; estimated time - 7 weeks.
- National Program of Assessment: fees - up to AUD5,500; estimated time - 1 year, deadlines apply.
- Experienced Practitioner Assessment: fees - up to AUD4990; estimated time - 15 weeks.

- English Language Proficiency: For a Provisional Assessment AACA has no English language requirement. For an OQA Assessment, a standard English proficiency test is required if the qualification obtained was not undertaken in English. An IELTS Test Certificate (scoring 6.5 or above) or equivalent, or a letter from an employer certifying that English language proficiency is adequate, will be accepted as sufficient evidence.

Links:

- Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA): <https://aaca.org.au/>
- NSW Architects Registration Board: <https://www.architects.nsw.gov.au/>
- NAATI: <https://www.naati.com.au/>
- International Federation of Translators: <https://en.fit-ift.org/>