



香港建築師學會
The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Press Release

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA)

Transitional Measures for Recognising UK Architectural Educational Qualifications as Eligibility for Taking Professional Assessment in Hong Kong

[Hong Kong • 22 July 2020] To become a Registered Architect in Hong Kong, the normal route is to pass the Professional Assessment jointly organised by The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) and the Architects Registration Board (ARB) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

To be qualified to sit for the HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment, a candidate should have the required educational qualifications, together with a minimum of two years professional practical experience.

*[For details of the current routes to become Registered Architect, and the HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment System, please refer to **Annex I**]*

Architectural Education Programmes recognised by HKIA/ARB

In order to ensure the standard of candidates sitting for our HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment, only those graduates from the professional architectural education programmes accepted by HKIA/ARB will be admitted.

Besides the local educational programmes directly accredited by HKIA/ARB, HKIA/ARB also recognise non-local professional architectural education programmes in China, USA, Australia and New Zealand which are accredited by the corresponding national authorities.

Moreover, the professional architectural programmes recognised by the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) are also accepted by HKIA/ARB as the required education qualifications for taking the HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment.

The current list of the professional architectural education programmes accredited or recognised by HKIA/ARB are as follows: -

https://www.hkia.net/en/doc/PA/Accredited_Professional_Programme_Lists_2019.pdf

Changes in CAA recognition lists

Starting 1 February 2020, CAA revised its list of architectural educational qualifications recommended for recognition.

The revised list includes architectural programmes validated directly by CAA only, while those architectural programmes recognised by national validation procedures previously recognised by CAA, such as the programmes in United Kingdom (UK), New Zealand and Australia, have been removed from the list.

As HKIA currently has mutual recognition arrangement with the accreditation authorities of Australia and New Zealand, HKIA/ARB will continue to recognise the national accredited architectural programmes in these two countries.

However, there is no such mutual recognition arrangement for academic credentials with UK. Hence those architectural education programmes in UK will no longer be on the list recognised by HKIA/ARB.

Special Transitional Arrangement concerning UK Architectural Education Programmes

After due consideration for the interest of Hong Kong students, HKIA and ARB have decided to make special transitional arrangement. As such, those students who commence their architectural education programmes in the UK in the academic year of 2021/22 or before would NOT be affected, provided that the UK programmes concerned are on the 2019 list of the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) [i.e. “Qualifications in Architecture Recommended for Recognition (by national validation procedures recognised by CAA)” <http://www.comarchitect.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CAA-list-of-Qualifications-Recommended-for-recognition1-1.pdf>].

Upon graduation from the professional architectural programmes, this cohort will be deemed as having attained the recognised educational qualifications for applying for HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment – same as the current admission process.

However, HKIA/ARB would like to alert students who desire to enroll for, and start their architectural studies in the UK in the academic year of 2022/23 or after. Upon graduation, they will be required to apply for the HKIA Academic Qualifying Assessment (AQA) for individual assessment, same as other graduates with educational qualifications not on the list recognised by HKIA/ARB, before they could sit for the HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment. *[Please refer to **Annex II** for details of the current AQA practice].*

Way Forward

HKIA is a signatory under the Canberra Accord on Architectural Education, which means that the professional architectural degree accredited by HKIA/ARB are recognised as significantly comparable to the degrees accredited by other national signatory agencies, including USA, Canada, China, Japan, South Korea, South Africa, Mexico, as well as CAA.

Currently HKIA already has mutual recognition arrangement on the accredited academic qualifications with Mainland China, Australia and New Zealand. HKIA shall continuously explore opportunities of entering into mutual recognition for academic credentials with other overseas counterparts.

HKIA will proactively disseminate the information to secondary schools, international schools and educational bodies in Hong Kong, as well as the public, so as to facilitate students to make informed choices when considering their future overseas studies. The HKIA Secretariat will also help address any queries from students or parents in this regard (Tel: 2511-6323 / Email: hkiasec@hkia.org.hk).

Summary

The table below summarises the key points of the transitional measures for a period of two years for students of UK architectural programmes in the 2019 CAA list of Qualifications in Architecture Recommended for Recognition

(<http://www.comarchitect.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CAA-list-of-Qualifications-Recommended-for-recognition1-1.pdf>):-

<i>Year of Commencement of a Programme</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Upon Graduation</i>
2020/21	Same as the non-local professional architectural programmes currently recognised by HKIA/ARB	Graduates would be recognised as having attained the educational qualifications for applying for HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment
2021/22		
2022/23 or After	Programme no longer on the list recognised by HKIA/ARB	Graduates need to go through the individual assessment (Academic Qualifying Assessment) on the eligibility for Professional Assessment

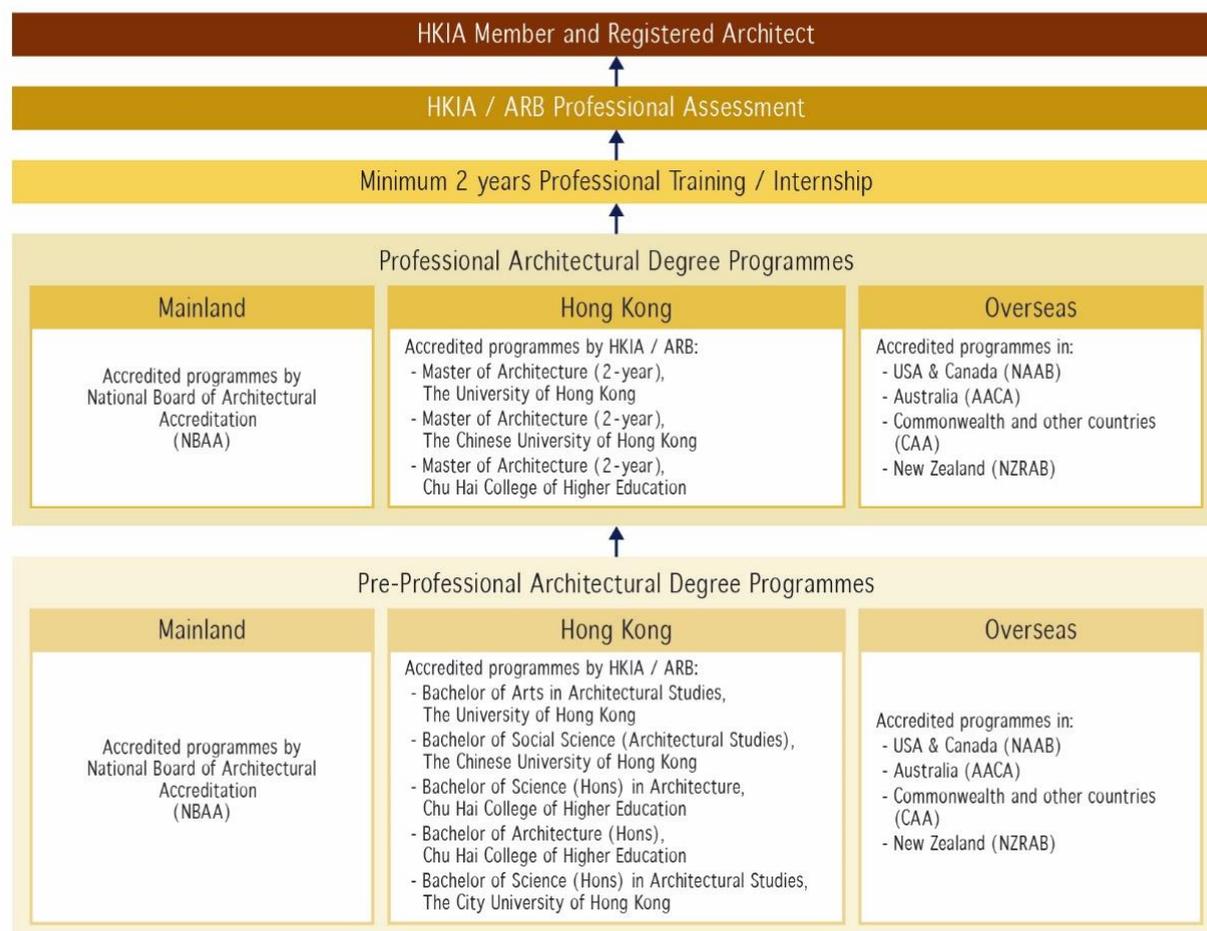
For details of eligibility for HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment, please refer to:

https://www.hkia.net/en/pdf/PA/PA_Handbook_revised_2017.pdf

For public (including students and parents) enquiry, please contact HKIA Secretariat:

Tel: 2511-6323 / Email : hkiasec@hkia.org.hk.

1 . How to Become an HKIA Member and a Registered Architect (General Route)



Professional Architectural Degree Programmes mutually accredited by HKIA / ARB

- Master of Architecture (2-year), The University of Hong Kong (From programme start date to 2022)
- Master of Architecture (2-year), The Chinese University of Hong Kong (From programme start date to 2020)
- Master of Architecture (2-year), Chu Hai College of Higher Education (2017-2022)

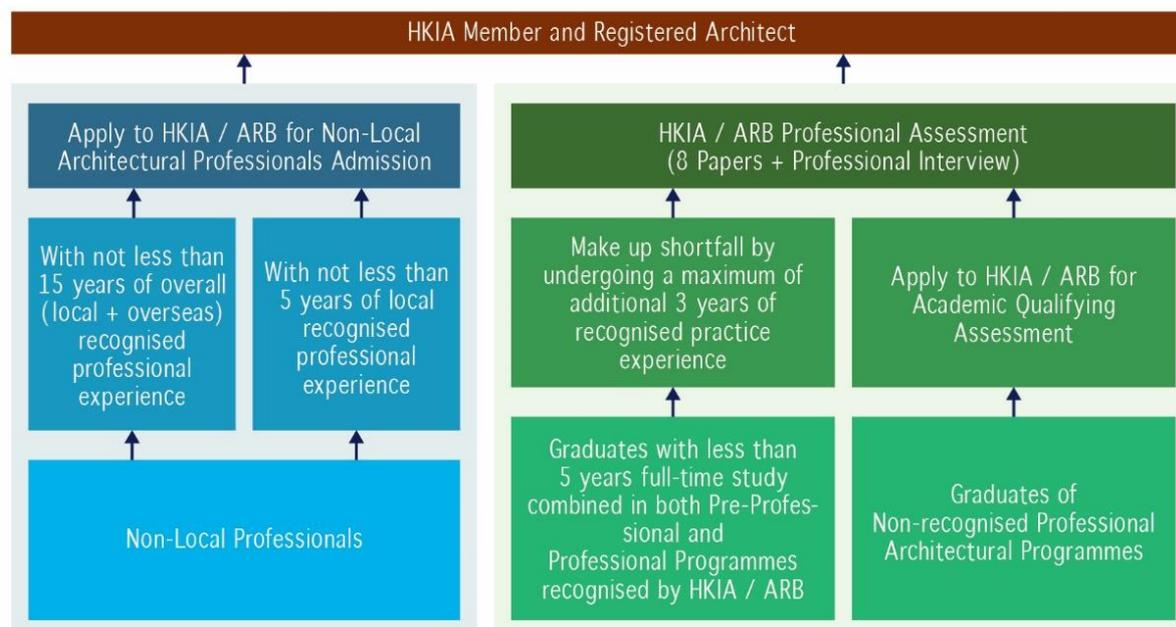
Pre-Professional Architectural Degree Programmes mutually accredited by HKIA / ARB

- Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies, The University of Hong Kong (From programme start date to 2022)
- Bachelor of Social Science (Architectural Studies), The Chinese University of Hong Kong (From programme start date to 2020)
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Architecture, Chu Hai College of Higher Education (2015-2022)
- Bachelor of Architecture (Hons), Chu Hai College of Higher Education (2012-2015)
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Architectural Studies, The City University of Hong Kong (2014-2020)

Architectural Programmes that are accredited by the following non-local accreditation bodies are mutually recognised by HKIA / ARB

- Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)
- New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB)
- The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA)
- National Board of Architectural Accreditation of PRC (NBAA)

2 . How to Become an HKIA Member and a Registered Architect (Other Routes)



According to the Hong Kong's Architects Registration Ordinance, applicant for registration as a Registered Architect has had 1 year's relevant professional experience in Hong Kong before the date of his / her application for registration; and he / she is ordinarily resident in Hong Kong.

For details, please refer to Section 3 of the HKIA / ARB Professional Assessment Handbook at www.hkia.net

3 . Current HKIA / ARB Professional Assessment System

Paper	Subject	Type	Duration (Hours)
1	Statutory Controls in Building Works	MC + EQ	3
2	Building Contracts, Professional Practice, Professional Conduct, Conditions of Agreement	MC + EQ	4
3	Building Structures	MC	1.5
4	Building Services & Environmental Controls	MC	1.5
5	Building Materials & Technology	MC	1.5
6	Site Design	Drawing	4
7	Building Design	Drawing	6
8	Case Study (equivalent to 6 hours)	-	6
	Professional Interview	-	0.5
Total			28

MC = Multiple-choice questions

EQ = Essay questions

Candidates shall have passed or be exempted from all 8 written papers within 8 successive years before they are allowed to attend the Professional Interview.

Extract from *HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment Handbook (July 2018)*
(https://www.hkia.net/en/pdf/PA/PA_Handbook_revised_2017.pdf)

Academic Qualifying Assessment

1. Application

Before graduates from non-HKIA accredited or recognised schools may apply for the HKIA Professional Assessment, their academic qualifications and standard will have to be subjected to an Academic Qualifying Assessment (AQA).

Applications for the Academic Qualifying Assessment should be made in writing to the HKIA.

2 Submission for Academic Qualifying Assessments

For the Academic Qualifying Assessment, graduates from non-HKIA accredited or recognised schools are required to submit, in addition to other supporting documents, a detailed portfolio to exhibit the school works and other relevant design works undertaken by the applicant.

3 Assessment Criteria

Where the applicant's work, as exhibited in the portfolio and other relevant academic studies submitted, is considered to be of a standard equivalent to that of a graduate from an HKIA accredited or recognised university, the applicant may be allowed to take the Professional Assessment.

The assessment will be made based on individual merit. The decision of the PAC, which administers the Academic Qualifying Assessment, shall be final.

4. Other Requirements for Professional Assessment

In addition to the minimum 24 months of recognised post-professional degree Practical experience, graduates from non-HKIA accredited or recognised schools with less than 5 years of full-time study in architecture are required to make up for the shortfall by undergoing an additional period of recognised practical experience, before they are allowed to take Papers 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8. In all circumstances, the additional period of recognised practical experience required shall not exceed 3 years, i.e. the maximum total period of recognised practical experience required before taking on Papers 1, 2, 6 and 7 shall be 5 years.

The duration of additional experience required for each applicant shall be determined by the PAC on case by case basis and the decision shall be final.

Please refer to item 2.1.2 *Recognised Practical Experience* for more details.

Other requirements for taking Professional Assessment are exactly the same as in Section 2, items 2.2 – 2.8.