



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

HKIA Circular: 32/2020
22 July 2020

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

**Transitional Arrangement for Accepting UK Architectural Education
Qualifications for Taking HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment**

1. For admission as a Member of **The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA)**, and a Registered Architect in Hong Kong under the Architects Registration Ordinance (Cap. 408), one needs to sit for the Professional Assessment jointly organised by HKIA and the **Architects Registration Board (ARB)** of HKSAR.
2. To be eligible for the **HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment**, an applicant must attain an appropriate architectural educational qualification.
3. The architectural educational qualifications recognised by HKIA/ARB include:
 - (a) Local professional architectural programmes directly accredited by HKIA/ARB.
 - (b) Non-local professional architectural programmes currently accredited by one of the following national bodies, in their respective countries:
 - National Board of Architectural Accreditation (NBAA) of People's Republic of China
 - National Architectural Accrediting Board of USA (NAAB)
 - Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA)
 - New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB)
 - (c) Professional architectural programmes recognised by the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)
4. The professional architectural programmes recognised by the national validation procedures in the United Kingdom (UK) used to be on the list of programmes recognised by CAA.

Change in CAA List

5. Starting 1 February 2020, CAA revised the list of qualifications recommended for recognition to include architectural programmes validated directly by CAA validation panel only, while those architectural programmes recognised by national



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validation procedures (i.e. United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia) have been removed from the list.

6. As HKIA currently has mutual recognition arrangement with AACA and NZRAB, the professional architectural programmes in Australia and New Zealand accredited by AACA and NZRAB will continue to be recognised by HKIA/ARB for taking the HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment.

The list of AACA and NZRAB accredited architectural programmes are as follows :-

- AACA: <https://www.aaca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Accredited-Architecture-qualifications.pdf>
- NZRAB : https://www.nzrab.nz/c/Recognised-Qualifications/_40C69

7. With the updated CAA List, and since HKIA/ARB have no mutual recognition arrangement for academic credentials with the UK authority, the programmes offered by the universities in UK are no longer on the list recognised by HKIA/ARB.

Transitional Arrangement for UK Architectural Educational Qualifications for HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment

8. After due considerations for the interest of Hong Kong students, HKIA/ARB would adopt the following special transitional measures for a period of two years:

- a) Students who commence the architectural programme in UK in **the academic year of 2021/22** or before, would still be regarded as having fulfilled the required educational qualifications for Professional Assessment, provided that the UK programmes 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, the educational qualifications concerned will be accepted for HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment.

- b) Architectural graduates who commence an architectural programme in the UK in the **academic year of 2022/23 or after**, will be required to go through the special individual assessment by HKIA, same as other graduates with qualifications not on the list recognised by HKIA/ARB, before they could sit for HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment.
9. For details of the assessment - the Academic Qualifying Assessment (AQA), please refer to *Appendix A*.



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Key Points of Transitional Arrangements

10. Please refer to the summary table below on the special transitional arrangement for students to be enrolled in UK architectural programmes on 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>):-

Year of Commencement of a Programme	Status	Upon Graduation
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	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
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

Any enquiries in this connection can be sent to the HKIA Secretariat for follow up (Tel: 2511-6323 / Email: hkiasec@hkia.org.hk).

In the meantime, HKIA/ARB will continue to explore with relevant overseas authorities on the possibility of entering into mutual recognition for academic credentials.

For details of eligibility for HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment, please refer to: https://www.hkia.net/en/pdf/PA/PA_Handbook_revised_2017.pdf



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Appendix A

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.