

Frequently Asked Questions - ARB, AACA & NZRAB MRA

What do AACA and NZRAB do?

AACA

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) is an independent, self-funded, Not-For-Profit organization set up by the statutory state and territory Architect Registration Boards in the 1970s. AACA supports nationally consistent high-quality qualifications and licensing of architects in Australia.

For more details, visit our website www.aaca.org.au

NZRAB

The New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB) is established under the Registered Architects Act 2005 (the Act). The Act establishes NZRAB's functions as:

- making rules relating to architects
 - registering architects, issuing Certificates of Registration, and assessing whether architects meet the standard for continued registration
 - maintaining a Register of architects
 - investigating complaints and, if required, disciplining architects
- providing information to the public about the registration system for architects.

Who can use the new route? – UK to Australia or New Zealand

We have agreed initially that only accredited UK qualifications and accredited qualifications issued in Australia and New Zealand will be in scope.

UK to Australia applicants will need to have secured ARB prescribed qualifications at Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 level and be registered and in good standing with ARB, which will be confirmed by ARB on a certificate of eligibility. UK architects will then need to meet additional requirements set by the AACA, following which AACA will then issue an AACA Statement pursuant to the MRA to take to state and territory registration boards in Australia to facilitate registration.

An architect is also an eligible UK to Australia architect if they have:

- secured accredited Australian or New Zealand qualifications issued by Schools of Architecture in Australia or New Zealand, and have secured equivalence at UK Part 1 and Part 2 level having undertaken assessment by ARB (such as the Prescribed Examination)
- and secured an ARB-prescribed qualification issued by a school of architecture in the United Kingdom at Part 3 level
- and completed successfully any additional requirements of the AACA, and obtained an AACA Statement.

or

- secured UK prescribed qualifications at Part 1 and Part 2
- and completed successfully any additional requirements of the AACA, and obtained an AACA Statement.

UK to New Zealand applicants will need to have secured ARB prescribed qualifications at Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 level and be registered and in good standing with ARB, which will be confirmed by ARB on a certificate of eligibility. UK architects will then need to apply to NZRAB for registration and meet any additional requirements set by them.

An architect is also an eligible UK to New Zealand architect if they have:

- secured accredited Australian or New Zealand qualifications issued by Schools of Architecture in Australia or New Zealand, and have secured equivalence at UK Part 1 and Part 2 level, having undertaken assessment by ARB (such as the Prescribed Examination)
- and secured an ARB-prescribed qualification issued by a school of architecture in the United Kingdom at Part 3 level
- and completed successfully any additional requirements of NZRAB.

or

- secured UK prescribed qualifications at Part 1 and Part 2
- and completed successfully any additional requirements of NZRAB.

Who can use the new route? – Australia or New Zealand to the UK

Applicants must be an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Australia having applied for and been granted a permanent visa that allows them to remain in Australia indefinitely, or, a New Zealand Citizen or hold a permanent New Zealand Resident's Visa, or a UK Citizen or permanently resident in the UK with indefinite leave to remain.

Australia to UK applicants will require an AACA certificate confirming eligibility, including successful completion of an accredited qualification in architecture from a school of architecture in Australia or New Zealand, together with the Australian Architectural Practice Exam or Experienced Practitioner Assessment, and also current registration by one or more Australian State and Territory Registration Boards.

Australia to UK architects will also need to pass ARB's UK Adaptation Assessment before being admitted to the UK Register.

An architect is also an eligible Australia to UK architect if they have:

- secured ARB-prescribed qualifications issued by schools of architecture in the United Kingdom at Part 1 and Part 2 level,
- and secured an Australian Architectural Practice Exam or Experienced Practitioner Assessment,

and are currently registered by one or more Australian State and Registration Territory Boards, and have passed ARB's UK Adaptation Assessment.

New Zealand to UK applicants will require an NZRAB certificate confirming eligibility, including successful completion of an accredited qualification in architecture from a school of architecture in Australia or New Zealand, together with current NZRAB registration.

New Zealand to UK architects will also need to pass ARB's UK Adaptation Assessment before being admitted to the UK Register.

An architect is also an eligible New Zealand to UK architect if they have:

- secured ARB-prescribed qualifications issued by schools of architecture in the United Kingdom at Part 1 and Part 2 level
- and are currently registered by the NZRAB, and have passed ARB's UK Adaptation Assessment.

Now that ARB, AACA and NZRAB have signed an MRA, when will I be able to make an application to have my qualifications recognised under the agreement?

ARB, AACA and NZRAB have agreed that we will begin accepting applications on 25 May 2023. We will be publishing further details about how to apply soon. Please monitor these pages for more information.

Will all registration boards in Australia be participating in the Agreement?

Yes, all Australian States and Territories registration boards will be participating in the agreement. However, to be registered in Western Australia applicants must first register in any other state or territory in Australia and then apply through the standard Australian mutual recognition acts.

I'm an Australian architect and I'm eligible to use the MRA, what will I need to do next?

When the route opens to applicants, you will need get in touch with AACA to begin the process of certification confirming that you qualify to make use of the MRA. AACA will issue a certificate to qualifying applicants and this will also be transmitted to ARB. ARB will then contact qualifying applicants with details on next steps. When the route launches we will update our website with more information about how to do this.

I'm a New Zealand architect and I'm eligible to use the MRA, what will I need to do next?

When the route opens to applicants, you will need get in touch with NZRAB to begin the process of certification confirming that you qualify to make use of the MRA. NZRAB will issue a certificate to qualifying applicants and this will also be transmitted to ARB. ARB will then contact qualifying applicants with details on next steps. When the route launches we will update our website with more information about how to do this.

I'm a UK architect and I'm eligible to use the MRA, what will I need to do next?

When the route opens to applicants, you will need get in touch with ARB to begin the process of certification confirming that you qualify to make use of the MRA. ARB will issue a

certificate to qualifying applicants and this will also be transmitted to AACA or NZRAB. AACA or NZRAB, as applicable, will then contact qualifying applicants with details on next steps. When the route launches we will update our website with more information about how to do this.

How much will making an application to ARB under the MRA cost for Australian and New Zealand architects?

Applicants will initially need to apply to AACA or NZRAB for a certificate, for which a fee may be payable. There will then be a fee for the ARB UK Adaptation Assessment of £2950.00. Successful applicants will then need to pay ARB's registration fee when applying to join the register: fees vary according to the time of year in which the application is made and are published at: <https://arb.org.uk/architect-information/applying-for-registration-for-the-first-time/fees/>

What will it cost for a UK architect to seek recognition with AACA or NZRAB?

ARB will issue a certificate to UK architects seeking recognition, which will cost £80.00. UK architects will need to contact AACA or NZRAB for details of the fees for recognition in either country on receipt of the ARB certificate. There will additionally be fees to register in Australia or New Zealand. Again, the AACA or NZRAB will be able to advise further on this.

Is ARB able to assist with requirements relating to visas and work permits etc.?

We are unable to provide advice on these matters. Please see the UK Government's information resource at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>

I'm an EU-qualified architect who has joined the register through the EU route to registration. As I'm a UK architect, can I make use of the MRA?

The MRA does not accommodate UK architects who have joined the UK Register through another reciprocal agreement, such as that operated for EU applicants, so you will not be eligible to make use of the MRA.

I've completed an accredited Masters in Australia or New Zealand, but have not completed the final examinations needed for certification, can I still have my Masters recognised under the agreement?

The MRA provides for the 'freestanding' recognition of accredited masters-level qualifications issued in Australia and New Zealand. AACA and NZRAB will be able to issue a certificate or statement to confirm that accredited qualifications are within scope of the agreement, which will enable ARB to confirm that we have accepted the qualifications.

There is no provision for the 'freestanding' recognition of only undergraduate degrees qualifications issued in Australia or New Zealand under the MRA. If such international graduates elect to study Part 2 and Part 3 qualifications in the UK, Part 1 requirements will need to be satisfied by making an application through the Prescribed Examination route before an application for registration is possible.

I have a UK degree and/or Masters qualification in architecture but I am not registered with ARB, do I qualify to have these recognised by the AACA or NZRAB?

The MRA provides for the 'freestanding' recognition of the combination of ARB prescribed Part 1 and Part 2 qualifications issued in the UK. ARB will be able to issue certificates or statements to confirm that accredited qualifications are within scope of the agreement, which will enable AACA and NZRAB to confirm if they have accepted the qualifications. Individuals then wishing to register will need to complete their training in the relevant country.

I've been through the ARB Prescribed Examination and joined the ARB Register, am I eligible to use the MRA?

The MRA applies only to ARB registrants holding ARB accredited qualifications at Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 levels issued by UK schools of architecture. Accredited Australian and New Zealand qualifications which have been evaluated by ARB through the Prescribed Examination route and followed by a UK Part 3 qualification and registration are also accommodated. If however, you have gained other non-accredited qualifications and have registered through the ARB Prescribed Examination route, you will not be eligible under the MRA.