

The background of the entire image is a light-colored architectural sketch of a city or town, showing various buildings, streets, and structures in a hand-drawn style.

TRANSITION

TO

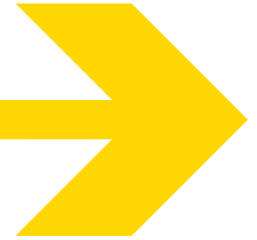
REGISTRATION

NSW
Architects
Registration
Board



	INTRODUCTION.....	1
	REGISTRATION - WHY IT MATTERS.....	2
	UNIVERSITY - ONLY THE FIRST STEP.....	3
	BENEFITS OF REGISTRATION	4
	PATHWAYS TO REGISTRATION.....	6
	THE GAP YEAR	7
	THE MENTORED GRADUATE.....	8
	BALANCING WORK, LIFE AND FAMILY	9
	THE OVERSEAS TRAINED GRADUATE	10
	SUPPORT FOR GRADUATES	11
	EMPLOYER SUPPORT	12
	THE EXAM PROCESS - WHAT TO EXPECT	13
	THE COMMUNITY OF ARCHITECTS AND CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	15
	CREDITS.....	16

Introduction



Do you have an architecture degree? Did you know that only graduates who are registered can use the title architect? This resource is designed to assist graduates, both recent and those who may have been working in architecture for some time, to make the transition to registration. Why is registration important for the individual and the profession? What resources exist to help graduates gain the necessary experience and practice-based knowledge to sit the architectural practice examination? How can an individual graduate find his or her own pathway to make this transition? How do you know you are ready to become registered?

Whether you are working in a large architecture firm or a small one, employed part-time or full-time, juggling the demands of work and family, or in your final year at university, preparing for registration is an important step in every graduate's professional life. Through individual stories from those who have successfully made the transition and professionals involved in supporting graduates during the process, this resource aims to inform aspiring graduates about the value and benefits of registration and offer insights into how you can attain the necessary experience and knowledge to successfully make the transition.



"When I heard that I passed the exam I was very happy, very relieved. It was definitely something that was on my mind for many years. So passing it felt like a huge load had been lifted off me and it was also the transition to the next stage of my professional life." GRAND CHENG

Registration - Why It Matters

Most professions recognize that academic qualifications are a necessary but not a sufficient qualification for admission to practice. Professions such as law, accountancy, medicine and engineering all require graduates to demonstrate attainment of competency through relevant training and experience. Registration is important because it ensures that graduates are practice-ready and have all the skills, experience and knowledge necessary to practice architecture to a standard of excellence and best practice that protects both consumers and also the profession as a whole.

Completing an architecture degree is not the end of an architect's education or professional development. One of the most important transitions any graduate will need to make in order to practise as an architect is getting registered. Registration certifies a level of attainment of competency across a broad range of specified practice areas in the field of architecture. In NSW, only a person registered with the NSW Architects Registration Board is permitted to use the word 'architect'. Mutual recognition arrangements operate between States and Territories in Australia and New Zealand.



Getting registered involves:

- Completing an approved academic qualification in architecture
- Gaining a specific period of relevant practical experience
- Successfully completing the Architectural Practice Examination
- Applying for enrolment on the Register with an [Architect Registration Board in Australia.](#)

[CLICK HERE](#): for more information on the APE (Architectural Practice Examination).



University - Only the First Step

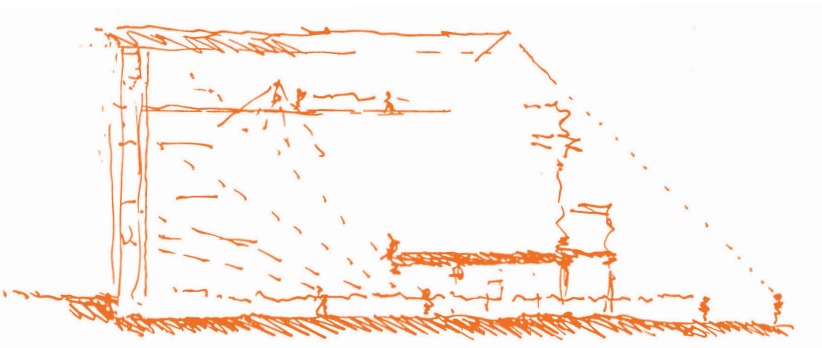
Training to become an architect begins at university and for many architecture students registration can seem like a distant professional goal. But even at university you can begin to plan your pathway to registration, gaining work experience that may contribute to your registration logbook and enhance your practice-based knowledge. Familiarizing yourself with the registration process early on and understanding the mandatory practice areas in which you will need to gain experience, is a first step in planning your pathway to registration.

Graduates entering the workforce after completing an architecture degree will also need to be mindful of the opportunities being offered in any workplace environment. Are you going to get the relevant experience you need to transition to registration? Understanding the requirements of registration will allow you to maximize your opportunities and think strategically about how you attain this important professional goal.

CLICK HERE: for accredited architecture programs in Australia.



"You can be strategic even when you are a student. It's important to take your career in your own hands and find the opportunities that are going to propel you towards registration sooner rather than later." MELONIE BAYL-SMITH

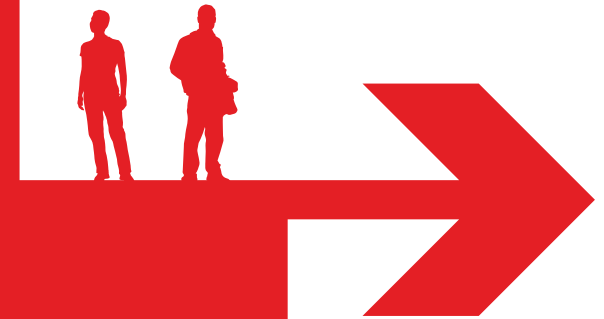


CLICK HERE: to see Melonie's interview.

Benefits of Registration

Becoming an architect affords graduates many benefits. Apart from the obvious one of being able to use the title 'architect' those who make the transition to registration have more flexibility in the workplace. Being registered affords graduates the opportunity to be self-employed. It may also enhance your employment and promotion opportunities and enable you to assume a more senior role in the workplace and take on a wider range of responsibilities, including practice and project management. Being registered gives graduates considerable flexibility as to where they can practise. Once a graduate has transitioned to registration he or she may practise as an architect in any state in Australia and New Zealand under mutual recognition agreements.

Registration is also recognized in the wider community as a sign of professional competence, quality and ethical standards of conduct and practice. Being able to show that you have attained a high standard and met standards of good practice not only enhances your own individual status as an architect but also instills client confidence in your skills as a professional. The value of registration, however, also lies in a very personal sense of achievement, in having completed the final phase of architecture training. In a recent survey commissioned by the NSW Architects Registration Board, 80 percent of registered architects who responded, said that the most significant benefit associated with registration was an enhanced sense of personal satisfaction.



PRAXIS

- The process by which theory, lesson or skill is enacted, practised or realised.
- The act of engaging, applying, exercising, realizing, or practising ideas.
- Putting theoretical knowledge into practice.
- The reflexive relationship between theory and action.

TRANSITION:

The act of passing from one state or condition to another // movement / passage / crossing / passing through / transformation / progression / growth / evolution / change / development // The period of time during which something changes from one state to another.

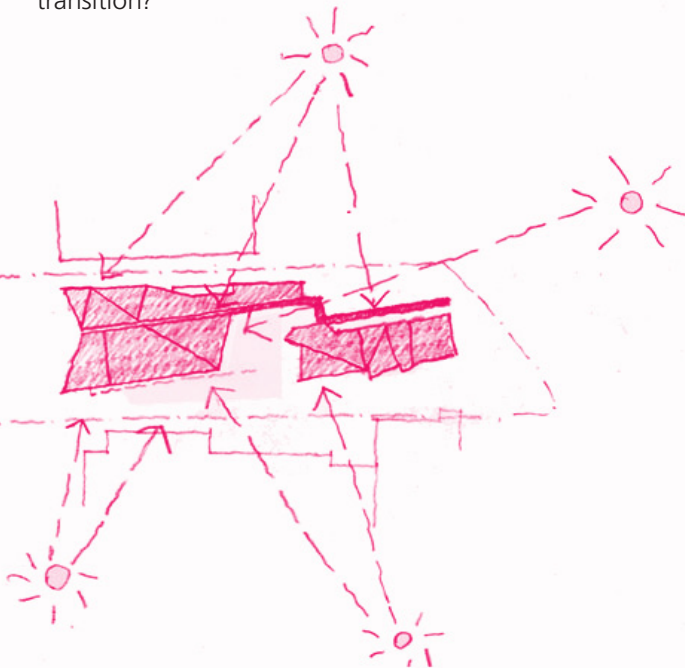


Pathways to Registration

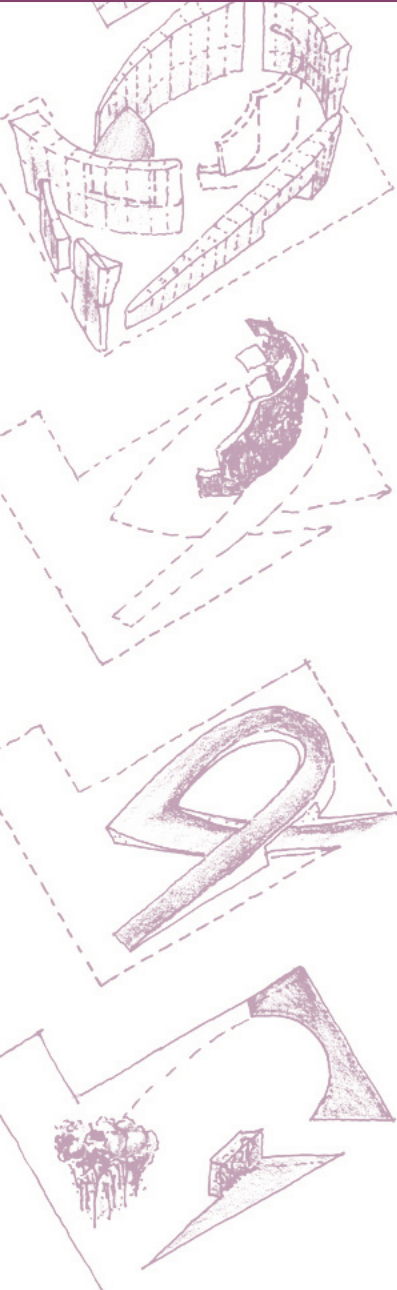
Whilst every graduate aspiring to registration must attain the requisite level of experience and practice-based knowledge to sit for the Architectural Practice Examination (APE), how and when a graduate decides to make this transition will vary. How do you know you are ready to sit for the APE? How do you get the relevant experience necessary to make the transition?

There are as many pathways to registration as there are graduates. People working in large architecture practices have different levels of support from those working in smaller firms, who may have more opportunities to gain a breadth of experience. Female graduates may have to juggle family and work at exactly the moment in their professional lives when they also want to become registered. Overseas trained architects may need to become registered again even though they have considerable experience as practitioners in another country. Final year students in architecture also need to consider life after university and their pathway to registration.

Whatever your circumstances, finding the right support, being strategic and planning your pathway to registration will greatly assist you in attaining this important professional goal.



The Gap Year



Choosing to take a gap year before beginning your final two year masters degree can not only enhance your experience of academic study when you return to university but may also provide you with valuable experience with which to start your preparation for the Architectural Practice Examination. The practical experience gained in a gap year can also give you a head start when seeking employment after graduation.



"I can definitely see the benefit of going out and working in the workforce because you get a more realistic idea of what it actually is to become an architect and what your role is. It's not so much the conceptual framework of the design but the actual realization of the building." JO BASTIAN



[CLICK HERE:](#) to see Jo's interview.



The Mentored Graduate



Whether you work in a small or large architecture practice, being mentored in the workplace can greatly assist you in gaining the experience necessary to become registered. Mentoring is a professional relationship in which a more experienced person guides another in developing specific skills and practice-based knowledge. The mentor relationship can be informal, as is often the case in small architecture firms or a more formal arrangement. Large architecture practices may offer structured mentoring programs that match graduates with registered architects who have been through the process. Mentors share their knowledge and skills and offer the graduate encouragement and a safe learning environment in which to grow their practice-based expertise.

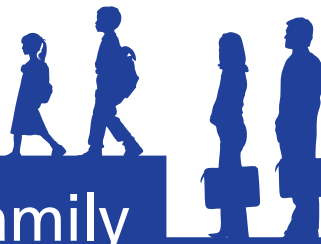
Mentoring relationships also help provide direction and open up opportunities for the graduate to gain experience across a range of mandatory practice areas. Developing a good working relationship with your mentor is a two way process based on mutual respect and an understanding of both the potential and limits of the relationship. Identifying the gaps in your knowledge and experience and communicating these to your mentor is crucial to getting the most out of the relationship.



"It was very important for me to have a mentor in my workplace. He not only taught me a lot in terms of the professional life but he also encouraged me in a lot of things, for example registration. If it wasn't for his support I probably wouldn't have had the courage to go for it." GRAND CHENG

[CLICK HERE](#): to see Grand's interview.

Balancing Work, Life and Family



Gaining the relevant experience and practice-based knowledge to sit for the APE can be difficult for any graduate. But when you add the responsibilities of child-care and raising a family to the equation, getting registered can seem like an unreachable goal. It is not. But it does require the right kind of support, the confidence to go for it and the ability to ask for advice, help and assistance when you need it.

Find an employer with family friendly work practices who understands your situation and supports your ambition to get registered.

Tap into an existing network of colleagues, who, like yourself, are also balancing family responsibilities whilst preparing for registration. Or start your own network.

Be flexible. Graduates who are parents of young children often need to work around the needs of their family. Part-time work or working from home can allow you to balance your commitments whilst also maintaining your log book and gaining the relevant experience.

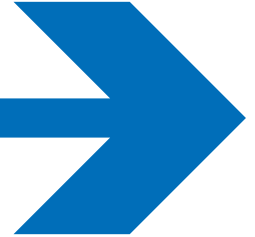


“What was important to me was that I kept working. I knew that if I didn’t it would be too easy to not go back to it and be able to progress...It’s recognized more and more that women are great employees to have when they are juggling all of that stuff because they come in and they focus and they get the job done.”

CLARE CARTER

[CLICK HERE:](#) to see Clare’s interview.

The Overseas Trained Graduate



Not every graduate aspiring to register will have a formal academic qualification from an Australian university. Graduates who have qualified at an overseas university, apart from a few exceptions, must have their qualifications assessed and accepted by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia to make sure the qualification is of an equivalent standard.

This assessment is a two-stage process involving, firstly, a provisional assessment of qualifications and secondly submission of either a student and/or graduate portfolio of experience, assessed in a review of academic equivalence. Only after passing both of these assessments can an overseas trained graduate progress to completing the APE before applying for registration.

Further information about the accreditation of overseas qualifications is available from the [AACA](#) website.



"I think you need to start that process when you're ready to do it. I think you also need the right level of experience - so I think there is a balance with what time frame in your own career you want to do it. But there are certainly no barriers to doing it later on." MARK GILDER

[CLICK HERE:](#) to see Mark's interview.

Support for Graduates

Even if you are being mentored in preparation for the APE in your workplace or have a broad range of work experience in the architecture industry, chances are there will be gaps in your practice-based knowledge and experience. Some graduates will create their own learning network or their employers may run training programs to assist them as they prepare for the APE. Where this is not possible, then the Practice of Architecture Lecture Series may be helpful.

The Practice of Architecture Learning Series (PALS) run by the Australian Institute of Architects offers graduates the opportunity to engage with experienced professionals who can offer insights into various aspects of the practice of architecture, areas where graduates may have no direct hands-on experience. These professionals are not only architects but also include lawyers, town planners, quantity surveyors and people experienced in professional indemnity insurance.

Through PALS graduates also have the opportunity to meet other aspiring graduates, form study groups to support each other through the process, and share ideas and information in a collegial environment.

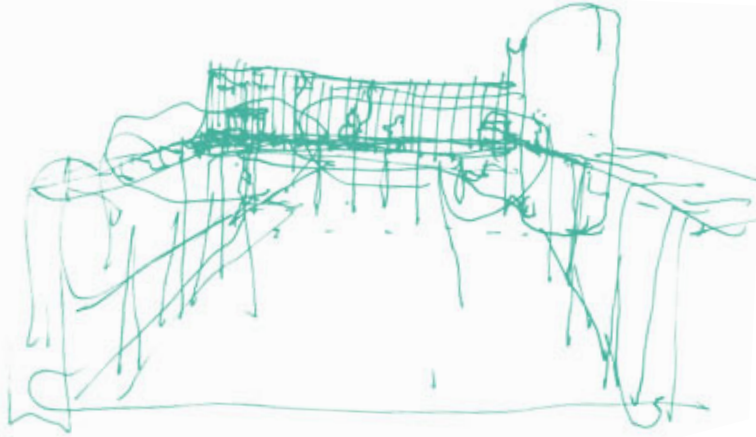


"I think PALS brings to the graduate a whole range of experiences...A number of professionals teach and one of the great assets I think is that we've been able to bring on board professionals who are not just architects, who have other experiences that are very valuable to young practitioners." TONY KEMÉNY



CLICK HERE: to see Tony's interview.

Employer Support



Opportunities to gain the relevant experience and practice-based knowledge necessary for registration will vary depending on the size of the architecture practice a graduate is working in. Whilst graduates working in small practices may gain a broad range of experience through informal mentoring, those working in large practices often need to access more formal training and assistance in order to gain the full range of experience required to qualify to sit the APE.

Because of the scale of projects in large practices graduates often find themselves specialising in one specific area of architecture. Understanding the gaps in your experience and the training and expertise available to you in a large practice can greatly assist you in gaining the relevant experience necessary for registration. Talk to your human resources manager about the training programs and mentoring schemes available in your workplace and tell your immediate supervisor you want to get registered.



"It's really important to map out a plan when you start in a large practice, to identify that you want to be registered and that you'd like to be put on projects that give you the right experience for your registration." FIONA MARTIN

[CLICK HERE:](#) to see Fiona's interview.




The Exam Process - What to Expect



"I don't think you can just study for it, you must have some hands on experience. The APE is designed to test that experience and validate the claims you've made in your logbook. So it's essential to prepare for it."

IAN McCAIG

[CLICK HERE:](#) to see Ian McCaig and Liann Lim's interview.



The AACA Architectural Practice Examination (APE) is a nationally consistent competency based assessment process. The APE has been developed and is maintained by Architects Accreditation Council of Australia. It has been adopted by all Australian state and territory architects registration boards as the national examination in Architectural Practice. All graduates seeking registration as an architect in Australia are required to successfully complete the APE. The APE is in three parts:

Part 1: Assessment of eligibility for admission to the examination - After you have satisfied the academic requirements for registration you will be required to undertake a period of practical experience in a logbook and be able to demonstrate a minimum of 3300 hours of experience in the seven mandatory elements of competency.

Part 2: National Examination Paper - After satisfying the APE Part 1, you will be required to sit the National Examination Paper (NEP), a written examination conducted by all registration boards simultaneously twice a year. You will be asked to identify correct answers in seven to nine different scenarios.

Part 3: Examination by Interview - Candidates who successfully pass the NEP will be invited to an examination by interview conducted by two assessors who are experienced practitioners. The interview is 45 minutes to one hour.

[CLICK HERE:](#) for more information on the APE.

A hand-drawn architectural floor plan of a kitchen, overlaid with a green tint. The plan shows a kitchen layout with various fixtures and annotations. Key elements include: a 'FULL OUT PANTRY' at the top left; an 'INTEGRATED REFRIGERATOR' below it; a 'WALL HUNG SHELF / DRAWERS (REF)' at the top right; an 'ISLAND BENCH (REF DRG #05 & 06)' in the center; a 'KITCHEN' area with a 'SINK' and 'SINK' (likely a second sink or a typo for another fixture); a 'DISHWASHER UNDER' and 'FILTER SYSTM UNDER' below the island; an 'OVEN & DRAWERS UNDER' to the left of the island; a 'KITCHEN BENCH' and 'SATIN STAINLESS STEEL' on the left side; a 'WASHER / DRYER UNDER' below the island; a 'DOUBLE P.P. & TELEPHONE JACK UNDER' at the bottom center; and a 'DINING ROOM' area on the right. Dimensions are marked: '300' and '900' for the top section, '3600' for the right side, and '2700' for the bottom right section. Annotations include 'MF2' in a cloud shape, 'D' in a circle, '01' in a triangle, and 'ST' in a square. Arrows indicate directions and flow. The text is overlaid in white on the plan.

The Community of Architects and Continuing Professional Development



“Continuing Professional Development is important because it enables architects to stay up to date with changing regulations and technologies. But it’s also an opportunity for them to follow their own interests and after finishing university to pursue areas of knowledge and practice that they will practice in.” MICHAEL ZANARDO

Becoming an architect not only means that you have achieved a level of professional expertise and competence that affords you recognition as a fully qualified professional. It also means you are now part of a diverse community of architects.

Architects are required to undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in order to maintain and improve their skills and knowledge. Technological innovation, changing design practices, environmental concerns about the sustainability of architecture and the shifting regulatory and legal frameworks, mean that the environment in which architects practice is constantly evolving. CPD enables architects to keep abreast of changes that impact on their professional practice.



Credits



The New South Wales Architects Registration Board would like to acknowledge the generous contribution of all involved in the preparation of this resource and to the architects and other professionals who volunteered their time to be interviewed.

Interviews

Jo Bastian – MCK Architects
Melonie Bayl-Smith – Bijl Architecture
Clare Carter – Contemporary Architecture
Grand Cheng – Lend Lease Design
Mark Gilder – GRIMSHAW
Tony Kemeny - Gran Associates
Liann Lim – Dexus Property Group
Fiona Martin – Practice Manager
Ian McCaig – Giles Tribe Architects
Matthew Pullinger – HASSELL
Michael Zanardo - Studio Zanardo

Other

Andrea Connor – Writer/Research
Mae Cruz – Research
Kate Doyle – Editorial
Jarra McGrath – Video/Editing
Christian Williams - Graphic Design

Sketches

Coverpage - fjmt | Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp
Page 2 - fjmt | Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp
Page 3,7 - Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects
Page 5,14 - Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects with
Drew Heath Architects
Page 6 - Fox Johnston
Page 12 - Neeson Murcutt Architects
Page 16 - Bennett and Trimble