



NZRAB Initial Registration Policy

30 November 2010, 29 November 2012, 15 July 2014, 14 July 2016, 8 September 2016

Purpose

1. This policy provides a set of principles and procedures that allow of the New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB) to meet the requirement of sections 8 to 10 of the Registered Architects Act 2005 (the Act) and the Registered Architects Rules 2006 (the Rules) subpart 2 in regard to the initial registration of architects.
2. As such, this policy describes the procedures by which the NZRAB will determine whether or not applicants for initial registration meet the applicable minimum standards for registration and then either grant or decline registration.
3. The overall intent is that the NZRAB shall have initial registration procedures which ensure that those being registered for the first time or renewing their registration meet the applicable minimum standards for registration with a high degree of consistency.
4. These procedures also need to be transparent and fair to all applicants.

Minimum Standards

5. To be granted initial registration, each applicant must meet three broad requirements, these being that the applicant has:
 - 5.1. a recognised architectural qualification, or an equivalent architectural qualification, or demonstrably equivalent knowledge
 - 5.2. worked in the architectural field for a specified period, part of which must have been under the supervision of a Registered Architect in New Zealand, or have had demonstrably equivalent experience
 - 5.3. demonstrated to an Assessment Panel that he or she has the appropriate knowledge, skills, attitudes and experience.
6. Applicants for initial registration shall be assessed against the minimum standards specified in Rule 7(2), which in turn are based on the National Competency Standards in Architecture which are the property of the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia.

7. Academic architectural qualifications shall be reviewed and recognised via the Australian and New Zealand Architecture Program Accreditation Procedure (ANZ APAP), which the NZRAB administers in New Zealand.
8. Exemptions shall be granted to rules 5 and 6 where:
 - 8.1. The applicant is an Australian Registered Architect, in which case under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA) the architect is entitled to registration in New Zealand as of right.
 - 8.2. The applicant is an APEC Architect from an economy with which New Zealand has an arrangement to facilitate the mobility of architects in the provision of architectural services. In that case, the applicant's home economy registration authority's judgment in terms of the applicant's generic knowledge, skills, attitudes and experience shall be accepted, the applicant being assessed by an Assessment Panel only in regard to any aspects of the architectural process in New Zealand that are specific to New Zealand.
 - 8.3. The applicant is a US registered/licensed architect from a state or territory that is a signatory to the Australia United States of America New Zealand Mutual Recognition Arrangement and meets the criteria specified therein.
9. An applicant shall be granted initial registration when he or she:
 - 9.1. has a recognised qualification and has:
 - 9.1.1. 140 weeks practical experience, of which:
 - 9.1.1.1. 95 weeks must be subsequent to obtaining a recognised qualification i.e. from the date the degree is issued
 - 9.1.1.2. experience periods must be not less than four consecutive weeks
 - 9.1.1.3. at least 45 weeks must be spent in New Zealand under the direction of an architect registered in New Zealand
 - 9.1.1.4. up to 45 weeks practical experience may be gained working in other sectors of the building industry or while self-employed, or while undertaking post graduate study or research.
 - OR
 - 9.1.2. 260 weeks (5 years) of practical experience, of which:
 - 9.1.2.1. 215 weeks must be subsequent to obtaining a recognised qualification i.e. from the date the degree is issued
 - 9.1.2.2. experience periods must be not less than four consecutive weeks
 - 9.1.2.3. at least 85 weeks must be spent in the practice of architecture in New Zealand.
 - 9.1.2.4. up to 45 weeks practical experience may be gained working in other sectors of the building industry or while self-employed, or while undertaking post graduate study or research.
- 9.2. is currently or was previously registered/licensed in another jurisdiction and:
 - 9.2.1. has a five year tertiary architectural qualification; and

- 9.2.2. has seven years' relevant professional postgraduate experience
 - 9.2.3. has 12 months relevant professional experience in New Zealand in the last three years
 - 9.2.4. is resident in New Zealand
 - 9.2.5. is proficient in English:
- 9.3. has demonstrated to an NZRAB Assessment Panel that he or she has the required knowledge, skills, attitudes and experience for practising architecture with skill and care, in conformity with the standard of the practice of architecture in New Zealand.
10. Requirement 9.3 shall be met via either:
- 10.1. an interactive assessment with case study in which the applicant presents the documentation for work that he or she has done and successfully shows that he or she meets the applicable minimum standards for registration, to apply where the applicant has NOT previously been a registered or licensed architect in New Zealand or elsewhere; or
 - 10.2. an interview with project portfolio in which the applicant successfully shows that he or she meets the applicable minimum standards for registration, to apply where the applicant has previously been a registered or licensed architect in New Zealand or elsewhere and other criteria, as specified by the NZRAB, have been met.
11. For applicants who do not have a recognised qualification and/or the required work experience set out in 9.1 or 9.2 above or do not meet the requirements of 9.2, specific procedures and criteria shall be available to determine whether their individual qualifications and/or experience in aggregate are sufficient to allow them to present for the assessment set out in 9.3 above and, if not, to determine what additional study or experience shall be required for them to be adequately prepared to do so.
12. These specific procedures shall entail the establishment of a Qualifications and Experience Assessment Panel (QEAP) that will, as a first step, review an individual's qualifications and experience where they are not recognised qualifications and/or the required practical experience.
13. The QEAP shall comprise up to three persons with a relevant academic background and up to three NZRAB registration assessors, appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Registration Committee.
14. Where the QEAP determines that an applicant's qualifications and experience are equivalent to the standard required of applicants with recognised qualifications and/or the required practical experience, the QEAP will authorise the applicant to apply for initial registration and be assessed by an Assessment Panel.
15. If the QEAP determines that an applicant's qualifications and experience are NOT equivalent to the standard required of applicants with recognised qualifications and the required practical experience, the QEAP will specify the study and/or additional work experience that the applicant must complete in order to be permitted to apply for initial registration and be assessed by an Assessment Panel.

16. Where the QEAP requires additional study and/or work experience, but the applicant believes he or she can provide evidence that the requirement has already been met, he or she is permitted to make a further written submission to the QEAP.
17. Where an applicant is an experienced architectural designer or a registered architect from another jurisdiction with the required generic architectural knowledge, skills, attitudes and experience, the QEAP may decide that an interactive assessment with case study, as described in clause 10.1, is not required and an interview without case study will suffice, as described in clause 10.2, to occur either in due course or after the applicant has completed any additional study or work experience required by the QEAP.
18. Once the applicant has completed the QEAP's requirements and presented evidence of this to QEAP, the applicant may apply for initial registration and be assessed by an Assessment Panel, subject to the requirement that this must occur within five years of the QEAP having made its determination.

Procedures

19. Specific procedures shall be in place for those seeking initial registration depending on whether applicants:
 - 19.1. have recognised qualifications and the required work experience
 - 19.2. do not have recognised qualifications or the required work experience
 - 19.3. are experienced registered architects from other jurisdictions
 - 19.4. are former New Zealand architects
 - 19.5. are APEC Architects from economies with which the NZRAB has entered into mutual registration arrangements
 - 19.6. are USA architects that meet the requirements of the Australia United States of America New Zealand Mutual Recognition Arrangement 2016 (USA MRA)
 - 19.7. are registered in Australia.
20. The NZRAB shall make available to potential applicants via the NZRAB website documentation which describes the NZRAB's policies, procedures and requirements for initial registration, or for the reinstatement of registration for former New Zealand architects.
21. On request, potential applicants for initial registration, including those who have gained an assessment from the QEAP where this is required, may seek verbal advice from a convenor as to whether they have sufficient experience on appropriate projects to present for the professional conversation assessment for initial registration under clause 10.1.
22. Applicants who have met the QEAP's requirements for additional study and/or work experience shall either undertake the same registration procedure as applicants with recognised qualifications and the required work experience under clause 10.1 or the initial registration interview procedure that applies under clause 10.2, as determined by QEAP.
23. Applicants shall complete all of the NZRAB published application requirements for initial registration in order for their application to be accepted.

24. Applicants shall then either:
 - 24.1. meet with an assessment panel to present and explain examples of their architectural work through a case study as a way of demonstrating that they have the required knowledge, skills, attitudes and experience, benchmarked against the skills and competences specified in clause 6, and to allow for a broader holistic judgment that the applicant would be safe to practice in New Zealand as a sole practitioner.
 - 24.2. meet with an assessment panel with a project portfolio to be assessed in regard to their knowledge, skills, attitudes and experience, benchmarked against the skills and competences specified in clause 6, and to allow for a broader holistic judgment that the applicant would be safe to practice in New Zealand as a sole practitioner.
25. The assessment panel shall comprise two architects who are members of the trained group of assessors who form the NZRAB Standing Panel of Assessors.
26. In each case, if a member of the assessment panel is in any way conflicted in regard to the applicant, he or she shall step aside and be replaced by another member of the Standing Panel
27. On completion of the assessment, the assessment panel shall prepare a report on the applicant which shall include a recommendation to the Board as to whether or not the applicant meets the applicable minimum standards for registration and therefore should or should not be registered.
28. Where an application for initial registration is accepted, the applicant shall be advised of this fact and presented with an invoice for his or her annual Certificate of Registration, so that when payment is received the applicant is deemed to be a Registered Architect and is recorded on the New Zealand Architects Register as such.
29. Where an application for initial registration is declined, the applicant shall be advised in writing and provided with a copy of the assessment panel's report, along with advice as to how he or she can appeal to the NZRAB in regard to the process (though not the judgment), or to the District Court.
30. Board minutes shall record the names of successful and unsuccessful applicants and their registration/data base numbers, though in the minutes made public on the NZRAB's website the names of unsuccessful applicants shall be deleted.
31. Where applicants are currently registered in Australia or qualify under the USA MRA, board decisions shall not be required given that registration in these cases is 'as of right'.

Assessors

32. The NZRAB shall appoint and maintain a standing panel of architects as assessors who are able and sufficient to assess applicants for initial (and continuing) registration in terms of whether or not applicants meet the required standard.
33. Assessors shall be appointed for six-year terms, renewable.

34. Appointments of assessors and the termination of appointments as assessors shall be made by the Board on the recommendation of the Registration Committee.
35. Assessors shall be available to undertake interactive assessments in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, and other centres when required from time to time.
36. Assessors must at all times be objective, ethical and fair when making assessments and recommendations. Assessors must also maintain confidentiality where required and step aside if conflicts of interest arise.

Convenors

37. The Board Chair, on the recommendation of the Registration Committee, shall appoint three persons to act as Registration Convenors, their tasks being to lead and mentor the assessors, provide advice to potential applicants, assist the secretariat organise initial (and continuing) registration assessments, and draft reports to the Board on recent registration assessments.
38. The Registration Convenors shall be appointed from the ranks of the assessors and one each shall be within convenient travelling distance from respectively Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

The Register

39. The names, and other details as required by the Act (S21), of all Registered Architects, architects in voluntary suspension, architects whose registration has been suspended for other reasons, and architects in default shall be available to the public via an online New Zealand Architects Register.
40. The names of former New Zealand architects, where known, shall also be available on line.