

From: Callum McKenzie (Chair of the Registration Committee)
To: Employers of architectural graduates
Subject: The employers' role in helping staff to become registered architects
Date: 27 July 2010

Many of you will have experience of employing graduates who want to become Registered Architects. As you are all well aware registration as an architect distinguishes our profession from other providers in the design sector. The New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB) is keen to ensure that registration is relevant and is the logical end goal for graduates in architecture. Currently around 37 new people a year are achieving the title Registered Architect. This remains well short of the 190 or so graduates leaving our three schools each year.

By employing a graduate we assume that you are interested in their future development and are well aware that you play a vital role in assisting your staff member achieve their goal of becoming a Registered Architect.

Helping a staff member to become registered is valuable professional development for both of you. Some of the most enthusiastic and engaged staff members are those seeking registration. They are keen to enquire and to learn from their Registered Architect colleagues.

We know from our graduate surveys that they often find it difficult to obtain practical experience suitable for registration. We ask that you consider this when you determine how and to whom projects and tasks will be allocated within your team. Gaining the range and depth of experience required to be a successful registration applicant is critical.

It is not easy, as many of you will recall, preparing evidence of your work experience and then preparing for the assessment. Requirements for the application for registration have changed significantly over recent years, and we would urge you to become conversant with these requirements if you are not already, by discussing them with your graduate(s) and by looking at those requirements on the NZRAB website, which is regularly updated.

We urge you as much as possible to engage with your staff and encourage them as they prepare for registration

Many employers get quite involved, guiding and advising where possible. Most employers permit the free use of copying and printing equipment and access to the office after hours, so that staff can get on with preparing their case studies. Some employers pay or part-pay registration application fees and some will reimburse successful staff. Some employers permit paid study leave to prepare for the assessment interview.

The types of support you can offer is of course up to you, and some graduates may not want any, but we do encourage you to consider carefully how you can assist your graduates towards registration; we were after all, all in that position once.

You are welcome to ring me as Wellington Convenor (04 384 8192) or Auckland Convenor Tony Orgias (09 481 0630) or Christchurch Convenor Alec McDonald (03 366 3524), if you would like to discuss this matter or registration generally.