

Equivalency Certificate

PATHWAY FOUR – EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS

Pathway Four is for applicants with architectural qualifications that are not recognised qualifications from New Zealand or Australia. These applicants must first obtain an Equivalency Certificate. For this, applicants must satisfy the NZRAB **Qualifications Committee** that their qualifications are equivalent to a five year undergraduate New Zealand or Australian degree in Architecture.

Applicants can then apply for registration via Pathway One.

By the time they apply for registration via Pathway One, Pathway Four applicants must also have a minimum of 45 weeks work experience in New Zealand under the direction of a New Zealand or Australian Registered Architect by the time they apply for Pathway One registration.

Applicants must follow the processes outlined below.

Step One – Application

Each applicant is required to:

1. Submit an application using the [Pathway Four application form](#) with the appropriate fee.
2. Provide a certified, translated copy of his or her qualification, including transcripts of course material that record the papers or courses taken and the grades achieved.
3. Provide a recent written discourse expressing the applicant's views on an aspect of architecture with relevance to, or in comparison with, the New Zealand context. The aim is to demonstrate the applicant's understanding of and interest in architecture. It will provide a clearly written study and analysis of a topic. The discourse must be in English, to a university standard, and be between 3000 and 5000 words. Technical material, specifications or commissioned reports are not acceptable. Victoria University of Wellington School of Architecture paper *The Art of Writing Architectural Essays* by Patricia McLean and Peter Wood is available from the Board.
4. Provide evidence of competence in the English language, in cases where the applicant has **not** studied in a New Zealand university or where the medium of instruction for his or her Architecture degree was **not** English. The following are the options.
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) 575 with, preferably, a TWE of 5; or 237 on the computer-based test; or 90 on the internet-based test with (preferably) a writing score of 20; or
 - International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (general) overall band of 6.5, with no sub-score below 5.5 in the four test modules (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking);
 - Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) grade B / CPE grade C; or
 - A letter from the applicant's employer confirming that his or her English is satisfactory in the context of architectural practice.
5. Provide evidence of time spent working under the guidance of a New Zealand or Australian Registered Architect.
6. Examples of work see advice below.

Step Two – Assessment of Qualification

1. Once the application has been received, the **Qualifications Committee** determines if the applicant's overseas qualification is equivalent to a recognised NZ qualification.
2. If the applicant's qualification is assessed as **not** being equivalent, the applicant is advised as to what additional study is required to enable the applicant to attain equivalency.

Step Three – Assessment Interview (review of experience)

1. If the **Qualifications Committee** determines that the applicant's overseas qualification is equivalent to a recognised qualification, in very clear cases the Committee has the discretion to award an Equivalency Certificate forthwith.
2. Generally, however, applicants are then required to meet the **Equivalency Assessment Panel** to review their practical experience, the review typically taking approximately 1.5 hours.
3. Each applicant is required to demonstrate:
 - an understanding of good practice as widely applied by architects in New Zealand
 - sufficient work experience to understand good professional practice in architecture specific to New Zealand
 - an understanding of ethical principles in architecture and New Zealand's statutory and regulatory requirements.
 - The applicant must provide the Equivalency Assessment Panel with examples of his or her work, as illustrated by drawings, photographs and written information that the applicant prepared. Two copies must be provided, each being indexed and bound, and provided in **(and not exceeding)** a hard body fooscap filing box. This is to make sure that the contents are protected in transit.



4. The applicant must prepare and bring a third copy of his or her material to the interview. One copy of this case study material will be returned to the applicant at the time of the interview. The other copy will not be returned and will be destroyed once application results are finalised.

Step Four – Assessment Report

1. After the interview, the ***Equivalency Assessment Panel*** prepares a report for the Board which indicates any conditions that should be placed on the applicant's Equivalency Certificate. These conditions must be met before the applicant applies for registration under Pathway One.
2. Conditions may include:
 - successfully completing further study in professional practice, practice management, construction law and New Zealand architectural history or theory
 - additional practical experience
 - attending the NZIA Graduate Program
 - other recommendations deemed appropriate.

Step Five – Equivalency Certificate

1. The Equivalency Certificate enables applicants to proceed to an application for registration as outlined in Pathway One, provided any conditions on the certificate have been met.