

# Programme Accreditation and Innovative Practice - a PSRB's Perspective

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**RIAI**

Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI)



The Professional Body for Architects and Architectural Technologists

The Regulatory and Support Body for Architects in Ireland (Building Control Act 2007)

The Competent Authority for Architecture in Ireland under the EU Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC)

3300 registered Architects

4300 RIAI members



- 7** Qualifications in Architecture MArch / BArch (5 years full-time)
- 5** Qualifications in Architectural Technology BSc NFQ Level 7 or BSc Hons NFQ Level 8 (3 or 4 years full-time)
- 2** Professional Practice Examinations NFQ Level 9 (1 year part-time) leading to Registration as an Architect
- 1** Architects Register Admission Examination under the Building Control Act 2007





# Accreditation Procedures



Existing procedures  
published 2008 and 2011

Due for review



RIAI 2008



RIAI 2011

QQI thematic analysis of reports of programmes accredited by the PSRB sector (2015 to 2018).

Analysis of two RIAI accreditation reports observed many positive aspects of the RIAI accreditation process and some areas for improvement;

- The RIAI had accreditation panels consisting solely of practising architects and **no academic assessors**.
- **Clearer mapping of programme outcomes** directly to the knowledge, skill and competences specified in the RIAI standards and the QQI national standards for architecture.

Peer Review Group appointed  
by RIAI Council in 2019

**Outcome:**

RIAI Accreditation Procedures  
Series, that will eventually  
comprise 8 parts



Change of the title of the procedures for qualifications in architecture from '**Prescription**' to '**Accreditation**' reflecting the remit of the RIAI under the Building Control Act 2007.

For renewal of accreditation, a move to a **single two-day accreditation visit** in Semester 1 or early in Semester 2 of the academic year focusing on the programme and the work produced by students in the programme in the previous academic year only.

Provision for **on-site, remote** or **blended** accreditation visits.

Further **definition** of terms relating to the accreditation process, the **role of each party** to the process and decision making roles.



Nomination by each Institution of a **School Accreditation Coordinator**, who is responsible for the submission of documentation to the RIAI and, together with the Chairperson the Visiting Board and the APA, is responsible for the smooth and timely coordination of the accreditation visit.

Composition of Visiting Boards to include **at least one person who is currently involved in the delivery of architectural /architectural technology education** for an RIAI programme, qualification or examination with RIAI accreditation of any category.

New templates for Accreditation Report **clearly mapping the outcome of the visit to the standards** for accreditation.



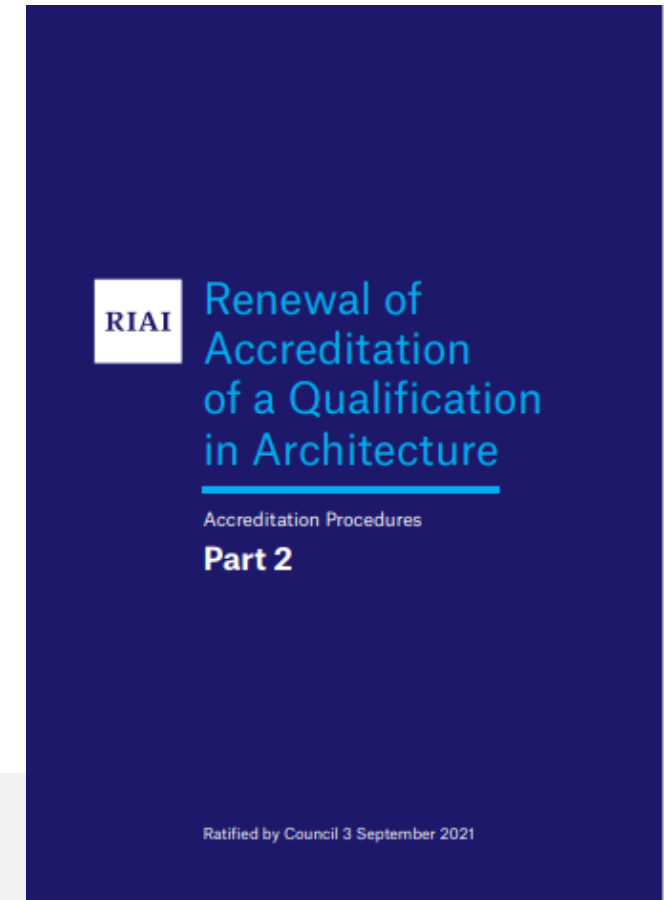
## RIAI Accreditation Procedures 2021

The first accreditation visit under the new procedures will take place in June 2022.

The RIAI will initiate an external peer review of these procedures periodically in accordance such applicable standards as are in force at the time.

The procedures will be available to download from the RIAI website at

[Education Policies and Standards | RIAI.ie](https://www.riai.ie/education-policies-and-standards)  
(The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland)





Thank you

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