



UCD School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy

Professional Diploma (Architecture) 2016-17

ARCT40110 Practical Experience/ ARCT 40810 Practical Experience (Online)

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE ADVICE NOTE 1

Assessment Requirements:

The Oral Examination is the final stage of assessment at professional level, leading to the Professional Diploma (Architecture) award and entry to the Register for Architects in Ireland.

In preparation for the final professional examination, you are required to provide verifiable evidence of minimum of 24 months (post B.Arch/ M.Arch degree, or equivalent) of professional experience in architectural practice, under the supervision of an architect.

Learning Outcomes-

On completion of this Module the student should be able to-

- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, competence and professionalism required for independent practice as an architect in Ireland.

- Show an ability to apply the 'body of knowledge' acquired in the other modules in response to specific issues and scenarios.
- Demonstrate judgment, integrity and impartiality in their professional dealings.

- Demonstrate an awareness of their personal professional responsibilities, skills, competences, limitations and on-going CPD (continuous professional development) requirements.

- Show an appreciation of the historical, social, environmental, legislative and economic context in which the built environment is procured'.

- Show an ability to communicate clearly and comprehensively.

ASSESSMENT

Written 'Assessment of Experience' including a Timeline of Experience, Certificate(s) of Experience and a personal reflection (20% of marks). A template is provided for this information.

Oral Examination (40% of marks for each Oral Exam) in two consecutive oral examinations of duration 20-30minutes each.

In order to complete the course (Practical Experience module) you are required to provide evidence of min. 24 months professional practical experience in paid employment under the supervision of an architect. You are not required to undertake any of your Practical Experience before registering for the Diploma and taking the other modules. Practical experience takes place prior to and/or during the Diploma course and must be completed and verified in advance of the Oral Examination.

Marking- Assessment of Experience 20%, Oral Examinations 80%, Pass Mark 50%.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

- Professional Experience must be under the direct supervision of an 'architect', defined as any person who is registered/licensed to practice as an architect in any jurisdiction or who is a registered/chartered member of a professional body which is a Member Section of the International Union of Architects (UIA).
- Professional Experience must be in paid employment OR in an approved work placement/ internship scheme for a min. 21 hours/ week. Regulated internships such as FAS Jobbridge are generally acceptable, informal / unregulated/ unpaid internships are not acceptable in any circumstances.
- Professional Experience must be after your B.Arch/ M.Arch qualification, i.e. post Part 2. Year-Out experience is not acceptable.
- Certificate(s) of Experience are required from your employer(s) as evidence of your 24 months experience. Your Certificates will be verified directly with your employer(s).
- Freelance work or experience as a principal is not acceptable. In the rare cases where a student is a junior partner, supervision by a suitably qualified senior partner may be acceptable, subject to prior approval.
- Experience in agency employment may be acceptable, if the work is of such a duration, nature and quality as to satisfy the above requirements.

- Practical Experience does not have to be in Ireland. Students should note, however, that the examination relates to practice in Ireland.

Your professional experience is required to be in accordance with the [RIAI Policy on Post-graduate Professional Training](#).

Professional experience is an essential complement to academic learning. The fundamental objectives of practical training are to ensure that the student has:

- *An understanding of the legal, contractual and procedural aspects of architectural practice;*
- *Practical experience of legal and ethical obligations arising from architect-client and employer-employee relationships;*
- *Experience, under direct supervision, of the duties and responsibilities of professional practice.*
- *Acquired knowledge, through "learning by doing" with responsibility in a busy office,*
- *It is most helpful to have worked on many work-stages of a well-managed project: This should include site experience, working with other consultants, experience of meetings with clients and statutory authorities. Experience in Ireland is very useful, as this alone provides familiarity with Irish practice, legislation, procurement and contract (which form the basis of the examination).*

FLEXIBILITY/ WORKING TOWARDS REGISTRATION

The course is flexible to allow graduates to take modules and pay fees at their own pace while they are completing their professional training and working towards registration as an architect

For example:

(1) a graduate with 2 (or more) years certified experience can enter the course in September 2016 and undertake all assessments by May 2017.

(2) a graduate with 1 year certified experience can enter the course in September 2016 and undertake all assessments in May 2017 or January 2018, depending on when they complete their 24 months practical training.

(3) a graduate from 2016 can enter the programme in September 2016 and take the Architectural Practice, Construction Legislation and Procurement & Contracts modules prior to undertaking their professional experience. (The earliest that a 2016 graduate can complete the course is Semester 2- 2017/18, subject to having completed min. 24 months practical experience by May 2018).

EXEMPTIONS TO PRACTICAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Applicants may apply for an exemption from 12 months of the Practical Experience requirement if immediately before, or during, the B.Arch/M.Arch course (or equivalent) they have gained at least 6 years appropriate experience.

Applicants may apply for an exemption from 12 months of the Practical Experience requirement if a maximum of 12 months has been spent in research and development work provided that- this is the first year of practical training; that the work is of such a nature and quality as to satisfy the objectives above; that the work is supervised by a recognised specialist in the field, personally engaged; that the work must be done in a reputable research organisation or institution with an established and adequately resourced programme. (A school of architecture employing assistants to work on established programmes would an acceptable organization). Taught postgraduate courses are not acceptable.

Students seeking exemption should register for the programme and apply in writing, with supporting evidence, to the Architecture Programme Board by August.

For further information please contact the Course Director.

Exemptions are evaluated by the School and decisions are made by the Architecture, Landscape, Planning & Environmental Policy Programme Board.

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