Background

In 1965 the Commonwealth Board of Architectural Education (CBAE) was established to set standards in architectural education and to provide a mechanism for the inter-recognition of qualifications on a Commonwealth basis.

The CAA Education Committee, which replaced the CBAE in 1989, was replaced by the CAA Validation Panel in 2000 and the system is now managed by the Chair of the Panel with an Executive Committee who report to CAA Council via its Education Committee.

CAA publishes, ".... a List of Schools of Architecture whose qualifications it considers after inspection, to be a sufficient standard to recommend to National Authorities that they be accepted for recognition as meeting the academic requirements appropriate for registration, accreditation, or acceptance as an architect."

The means of production and maintenance of this list is a peer review process that assesses output standards against minimum criteria and is widely known as the CAA validation system.

Beyond the formal purpose of recognition there are benefits, which derive from exchange of knowledge and skills in education during the validation process and the experience of standards.

The system procedures were last reviewed in 2008 and the reissued as ‘The Green Book’ downloadable at www.comarchitect.org/val_procedure.htm. The next review is due in 2013.

In 2008, CAA signed the Canberra Accord with USA, China, Canada, Australia, Mexico and Korea for mutual recognition of qualifications. From 01 Jan 2010, the Accord recognised the substantial equivalencies of the accreditation systems of the signatories. CAA directly validated qualifications now receive over 90% of credits in the NCARB EESA evaluation for recognition in the US.

A unique multilateral system

The principal feature of the system is the formation of visiting boards to schools of architecture (or national/regional validation authority) at the invitation of CAA member institutes. Board personnel combine two CAA representatives ('in region' and 'out of region') drawn from the CAA Validation Panel, with others nominated by the relevant national authorities. All nominees are subject to reciprocal approval.

Benefits

Benefits for Schools

- Assessment of Standards by a multilateral international body
- An International Network

The by-product of the CAA List is a network of academic institutions with architectural qualifications of recognised standard, creating opportunities for exchange between schools, students and teachers.

- Self reflection

The documentation and gathering of student portfolios required for a CAA visit is a valuable strategic and quality assessment tool and generates an exhibition of student work.

- Reputation

CAA recognition enhances reputation and can be used to attract both staff and students at national and international levels. Courses located within an institution of higher learning may receive improved status within their parent body.

Benefits for CAA Member Institutes and National Authorities

- A means of recognising qualifications of international applicants for membership.
- External verification of standards

For countries with a small number of schools and of particular benefit to countries with no national validation system where each school can receive full CAA visits.

- System validation

The procedure for recognising national validation systems is an efficient way of validating a number of courses at one time to the CAA standard.

- Members benefits

Improved mobility for members graduated from CAA recognised national courses wishing to practice or teach (or study) in other member countries through an internationally recognised qualification (subject to local immigration and registration requirements).

Benefits for Students

- Improved portability of qualifications

Transferable qualifications for graduates who wish to continue their studies or work in another CAA member country (subject to local immigration and registration requirements).

- Memberships

Opportunities for student or full membership of other CAA national associations.

Validation of Competencies and Variety

CAA procedures are sensitive to the wide range of countries and situations in the Commonwealth and place equal importance on establishing standards and the need to preserve and encourage diversity, innovation and development.

CAA validation criteria recognise that the globally relevant skills, and the understanding, of architecture can be learned in the context of locally domain-specific knowledge.
Courses and Procedures

Courses in architecture leading to qualifications currently recommended for recognition by CAA through direct visits or by accepted national validation procedures.

Individual Courses

GHANA
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

HONG KONG
In partnership with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects / Architect Registration Board Procedures
University of Hong Kong
Chinese University of Hong Kong

INDIA
Rizvi College
Kamla Raheja Vidyandhi Institute

JAMAICA
The University of Technology

KENYA
University of Nairobi
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

NIGERIA
Ahmadu Bello University
University of Lagos

SOUTH AFRICA
In partnership with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession Validation Procedures
University of Cape Town
University of the Free State
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Johannesburg University of Technology
University of Pretoria
Tshwane University of Technology

SRI LANKA
University of Moratuwa

UGANDA
Makerere University
Uganda Martyrs University

National Procedures

AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND
Australia New Zealand Architecture Program Accreditation and Recognition Procedure
University of Canberra
University of Technology Sydney
The University of New South Wales
The University of Newcastle
The University of Sydney
Queensland University of Technology
University of Queensland
University of South Australia
The University of Adelaide
The University of Tasmania
RMIT University
Oceania Polytechnic
The University of Melbourne
Deakin University
Curtin University of Technology
The University of Western Australia
The University of Auckland
UNITEC Institute of Technology
Victoria University of Wellington

UNITED KINGDOM
RIBA Procedures for the Validation of UK Courses and Examinations in Architecture
Robert Gordon University
University of Bath
The Queen’s University of Belfast
The University of Ulster
Birmingham City University
University of Brighton
University of the West of England
University of Cambridge
University for the Creative Arts, Canterbury
University of Kent
University of Cardiff
University of Greenwich
University of Dundee
Edinburgh College of Art
The University of Edinburgh
University of Strathclyde
University of Glasgow
University of Huddersfield
Kingston University
Leeds Metropolitan University
De Montfort University
University of Lincoln
University of Liverpool
Liverpool John Moores University
Architectural Association
University College London
University of East London
London Metropolitan University
Royal College of Art
London South Bank University
University of Westminster
University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University
University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Northumbria University
University of Nottingham
Nottingham Trent University
Oxford Brookes University
University of Plymouth
University of Portsmouth
University of Central Lancashire
University of Sheffield
Sheffield Hallam University

Qualifications in Architecture recommended for recognition by the Commonwealth Association of Architects

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