



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.

- Member 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 Vidyanidhi 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



CAA Validation

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

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