

RICS Entry and Assessment Review Q&A

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What is the RICS Entry and Assessment Review?

Entry and assessment standards and processes for all grades of RICS membership are critical to ensuring confidence in the profession. They provide the gateway to membership, ensuring individuals have the right knowledge, skills, experience and behaviours at the point of entry.

The Review is a programme of work to research, design, and implement any new assessment processes identified for the profession. It was led by the Entry and Assessment Steering Group (EASG), established by the RICS Standards and Regulation Board (SRB).

The project was to review and, where appropriate and subject to consultation, make changes to the following areas:

- Grades and classes of membership (inc. student, AssocRICS, MRICS and FRICS), and Chartered designations
- Eligibility requirements, including the role of the accredited degree, experience requirements, direct entry routes and their impact on DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion).
- Pathways and competencies
- Methods of assessment; including the role of computer-based assessments, and consideration of accessibility and DEI.
- Quality assurance of assessments
- Other RICS Schemes and certifications
- Relationship to post-entry learning and Continued Professional Development (CPD).

What is the Standards and Regulation Board (SRB) and what is its role in the Review?

The [SRB](#) has responsibility for exercising RICS' regulatory functions, including strategy, governance, structure, policy and operational oversight in the public interest. It oversees the activities of RICS' professional standards, entry and admission to the profession, education and qualification standards, regulatory operations, dispute resolution services and the Regulatory Tribunal.

The SRB established the Entry and Assessment Review, led by the Entry and Assessment Steering Group (EASG).

What is the Entry and Assessment Steering Group (EASG) and what is its role in the Review?

Led by an independent Chair, Sarah Hutchinson, and accountable to the SRB, the [EASG](#) provided leadership and direction for the Review. The EASG's role concluded following the SRB's submission of the Final Report. The term of the EASG formally ended on 31 March 2024, though members continue to be involved and support the ongoing consultation period.

What is the Qualifications and Assessment Committee (QAC) and what is its role in the Review?

Led by a professional member Chair, Keith Thomas FRICS, and accountable to RICS' Standards and Regulation Board (SRB), the [QAC](#) lead in the policy development and quality assurance of RICS' qualifications, including entry and assessment to the profession.

During the first phase of the review, the QAC worked closely with the EASG and fully endorsed the recommendations before the Final Report was submitted to the SRB. The QAC will continue to work on the delivery of the interim report recommendations and will work closely with SRB on any future recommendations that are approved. The QAC will also continue to provide ongoing assurance of the current assessment model and support the transition to a new model.

Will there be further discussion and engagement with members on the report recommendations?

Yes, we invite all members and stakeholders to contribute their views on the recommendations set out in the report. Member input will be crucial to future-proof RICS membership assessments, attract the next generation of surveyors and continue to uphold our public interest mission.

The recommendations are available for comment. To take part, please [complete the survey](#). Virtual and in-person events will also be organised to aid discussions.

How will RICS implement the EASG's final report recommendations?

The SRB is grateful for the efforts of the EASG whose expertise steered the initial Review. The report recommendations are subject to continued consultation, and all final changes to entry and assessment standards will be subject to approval.

Some work has already begun to update the competencies and competency definitions in the pathways. This work is being undertaken by Working Groups comprising senior assessors and members of the [Professional Group Panels \(PGPs\)](#).

What is a Curriculum Working Group (CWG)?

The purpose of CWGs will be to define the core competencies (the technical knowledge, skills and behaviours) every candidate must be assessed on.

Will the Review result in changes to the entry and assessment requirements to join RICS?

Potentially, yes. The recommendations are subject to continued consultation and approval. The Review could result in changes, including new assessment processes. Whilst we aim to simplify current routes and eligibility criteria, entry and assessment standards will not be lowered.

When could changes be implemented?

The EASG's Final Report includes a timeline until the end of 2024. As the recommendations are subject to continued consultation and approval, we are not currently able to confirm timings beyond the end of this year. No changes will be made without prior and fair notice of transition arrangements.

What transitional arrangements will RICS put in place?

Transitional arrangements will need to be put in place, and ample time given to all relevant stakeholder groups (including candidates, firms, universities etc.). These arrangements will be considered, and developed, as the project (and its timeline) progresses. There will be a transition period for candidates to complete their assessment on the current model.

Is RICS exploring external recognition of its entry and assessment processes?

RICS membership assessments must retain the confidence of governments and external regulators and strengthens RICS' role as a self-regulating body.

The recommendations would support meeting the criteria to attain UKAS ISO 17024 accreditation, a globally recognised accreditation for certification of individuals, and/or Ofqual recognition. Attaining status with either of these bodies would enhance our internal and external assurance processes and provide further public confidence by demonstrating the highest standards of assessment design and delivery.

How do the recommendations in the Final Report relate to the work of RICS CPD Steering Group and the ongoing CPD Framework consultation?

The two projects focus on different areas but are intended to complement each other; ensuring that members are competent when they enter the profession and maintain and develop that competence throughout their career.

How can I contribute to the development of the Final Report recommendations?

Please complete the [online survey here](#). Virtual and in-person roundtables are also being organised to aid discussions. Please choose a suitable time on our website: www.rics.org/EntryReview

Impact of recommendations Q&A

I am an RICS member (AssocRICS, MRICS, FRICS). Am I impacted by these recommendations?

The Review focuses on entry and assessment requirements at the point individuals join RICS and are assessed for different grades of membership. It is important all members are aware of the Review and take part. It is especially important for members who may be Assessors, Counsellors, supervisors, mentors or otherwise involved in the entry and assessment to RICS membership.

I am a candidate and due to take my final assessment soon. What does this mean for me?

You should continue to prepare for your assessment under the current entry and assessment requirements. The recommendations in the Final Report are subject to continued consultation and approval. If approved, no changes will be made without prior notice. Transition arrangements will be widely communicated.

I am a candidate on the Infrastructure, Taxation Allowances, or Valuation of Businesses and Intangible pathway. What does this mean for me?

You should continue to prepare for your assessment under the current entry and assessment requirements. The Report recommended the closure of these three pathways, this is subject to continued consultation and approval. No decisions have been made. If approved, no changes will be made without prior notice. Transition arrangements will be widely communicated.

I am an Assessor; what should I be assessing candidates on, and what support from RICS is available?

As an Assessor you will still be assessing candidates under the pathways and competencies framework, and assessment structure that is in place. If changes are approved, training, support and resources will be provided to assessors, to ensure they understand the changes, and when/how they will be introduced.

To provide you with greater clarity on your role as an assessor and what is involved, we are introducing an *Assessor Commitment* which supersedes the previous *Service Level Agreement*. We are also looking at ways in which you are recognised as an assessor. Look out for further details in a mailing to all assessors at the end of June.

I am a Counsellor; how can I support candidates?

You should continue to support candidates for assessment under the current entry and assessment requirements. No decisions have been made. If approved, no changes will be made without prior notice. Transition arrangements will be widely communicated.

Counsellors will be kept up to date as to how these changes will affect them, and their role as counsellors.

I am a Counsellor; what do these recommendations mean for me?

There needs to be clearer guidance, support and training for counsellors, outlining your role and responsibilities. This work is underway and will be shared with you later this year.

In the meantime, you should continue to support candidates for assessment under the current entry and assessment requirements. No decisions have been made. If approved, no changes will be made without prior notice and transition arrangements will be widely communicated. Counsellors will be kept up to date as to how these changes will affect them, and their role as counsellors.

I am an Associate member wishing to become a Chartered Surveyor. What do these recommendations mean for me?

No decisions have been made and you can still apply via the current application process. This may change, subject to consultation and approval later this year. A timescale for implementing any changes and transitions arrangements will then be decided and communicated widely.

[Progression from AssocRICS to MRICS](#)

I am a Chartered Surveyor considering applying to become a Fellow. What do these recommendations mean for me?

No decisions have been made and you can apply via the current application process. This may change, subject to consultation and approval later this year. A timescale for implementing any changes and transitions arrangements will then be decided and communicated widely.

[RICS Fellow \(FRICS\)](#)

I am planning to obtain a Chartered Alternative Designation in the future. What do these recommendations mean for me?

No decisions have been made and you can apply via the current application process. This may change, subject to continued consultation and approval later this year. A timescale for implementing any changes and transitions arrangements will then be decided and communicated widely.

[Alternative designations \(rics.org\)](https://www.rics.org)

I joined RICS via an approved Direct Entry route. Am I impacted by these recommendations?

Existing members are not directly impacted by entry assessment recommendations. Direct Entry routes are in scope of the Review and any changes may impact these routes for applicants joining RICS in the future.

How are small and medium size firms being considered in the recommendations?

Members will be kept up to date on any changes to pathways and assessment as part of the

implementation of the recommendations. We will ensure that firms, candidates, counsellors and assessors are provided with information in a timely manner.

What is the impact on education providers, specifically those providing RICS-accredited degrees?

The impact on education providers will depend on the scale of changes made to the pathways, competencies and assessments. If changes are approved and when the scale of changes is clearer, we will work closely with providers on the implementation of any recommendations.

How does this impact existing apprenticeships in England?

The impact on apprenticeships will be dependent on the scale of any changes made to the entry and assessment requirements. Once we know how any changes will affect the existing apprenticeship model, we will provide clear guidance.

I have further questions, who should I contact?

Please contact the RICS Education and Qualification Standards (EQS) team at Entryandassessreview@rics.org.