

CONSULTATION

An overview of entry and progression into other professions

A document supporting the review into entry and assessment of RICS membership.



Background

During our research at RICS, we benchmarked other professional bodies to compare the current entry and assessment model against other organisations. The information detailed below is the information used to make some of the recommendations in the final report.

There are three types of regulated professions in the UK:

1. Licence

By law, only recognised professionals can carry out reserved activities and use a professional title;

2. Certification

There are no restrictions on who can carry out activities, but by law only certified professionals can use a professional title;

3. Accreditation

There are no restrictions on who can carry out activities or use titles, but accreditation may demonstrate that individuals have achieved certain qualifications or experience.

These can be viewed on the government's [Regulated Professions Register \(RPR\)](#) service.

Focus on entry and assessment processes, Fellow application, and ongoing CPD requirements

The aim of this document is to provide a light-touch overview of the entry and assessment requirements of different regulated professions in the UK and abroad. These are:

Licence	RIBA	
	Law Society	
Certification	ICE	
	CIMA	
Accreditation	UK	Non-UK
	RICS	
	CIOB	ASAQS
	RTPI	RIMS
	IOSH	HKIS
	BPS	

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Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)

Professional Title	Chartered Surveyor (MRICS or FRICS)
Membership levels	Associate (AssocRICS) Chartered Member (MRICS) Chartered Fellow (FRICS) Student member
Route to Professional Membership	Relevant experience and an RICS-accredited degree 5 years of relevant experience and any bachelor's degree 10 years of relevant experience operating at an advanced level by seniority, specialisation, or in academia
Method of Assessments	Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) 2 options: with OR without structured training
period to qualify	12 to 24 months, with accredited degree
Cost to Chartership*	One-Off Payments: Enrolment Fee (£502 - £599) + Election Fee (£131) Annual Subscription Fee (£161) <i>*Details correct as of 28 May 2024</i>
Becoming a Fellow	A peer-reviewed written application, with supporting documentation + up-to-date CPD record
Accreditation of university programmes	Yes
Ongoing Regulation Requirements / CPD	20 hours of CPD per 12 month cycle; No audit system in place; Currently undergoing consultation.

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Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

Professional Title	'Architect' is a protected title by law. Architect Regulation Board (ARB) is the primary regulator of the profession.
Membership levels	Chartered Membership (RIBA) - needs to be registered with ARB RIBA Associate Membership [RIBA part 1 and 2 completed] RIBA Affiliate Membership [RIBA part 1 completed] RIBA Fellow Membership [recognition for Chartered Members / peer-reviewed]
Route to Professional Membership	RIBA Parts 1, 2 and 3 (or equivalent) OR A qualification in architecture which is covered by the EU Professional Qualification Directive (2005/36/EC) AND access to the profession of architect in the EU country in which the qualification was gained AND a minimum of two years of professional practical experience
Method of Assessments	Written Exams
Normal period to qualify	n/a
Cost to Chartership	£5,850 Examination Fees [£1950 per exam part (administered by ARB) – 3 parts examinations] Subscription Fees £266.00 / annual (qualified up to 5 years) £448.00 / annual (qualified over 5 years)
Becoming a Fellow	Not Applicable Chartered Member is the highest level of membership RIBA offers.
Accreditation of university programmes	Yes
Ongoing Regulation Requirements / CPD	Hours-based system - 35 hours per year Annual CPD audit of active members. Representative sample method used.

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Law Society

Professional Title	'Solicitor' is a title protected by law. Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) is the primary regulator of the profession.
Membership levels	Solicitor Newly Qualified (NQ) Solicitor Partner Retired
Route to Professional Membership	Three routes to entry: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualifying with a law degree 2. Qualifying with a non-law degree <p>For pathways 1 + 2 the following is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - complete the Legal Practice Course (LPC) - complete a period of recognised training - pass the professional skills course <p>3. Qualifying without a degree: joining the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) Exams to complete the foundations of legal knowledge and vocational stages of qualifying as a solicitor.</p> <p>*a new route to qualifying as a solicitor: the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) has now been introduced. Transitional arrangements are in place until 2031</p>
Method of Assessments	Written Exams
Normal period to qualify	6 years

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Cost to Chartership	<p>Under current system, costs varies: Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) = £7,000 - £12,000 Legal Practice Course (LPC) = £9,000 - £17,000</p> <p>*Under new system the total cost of the SQE assessments is £4,564</p> <p>Annual licence fee to SRB (£337) + Annual Law Society community membership fees (varies £150 - £199 per community)</p>
Becoming a Fellow	Not applicable
Accreditation of university programmes	Yes
Ongoing Regulation Requirements / CPD	<p>No minimum amount specified. Focus is on the maintenance and continued of competence in relation to individual and their role.</p> <p>Annual declaration to SRB that continued competence is completed.</p> <p>No official audit - responsibility seems to rest with the employers.</p> <p>Any negative declarations are dealt with by the SRB on a case-by-case basis.</p>

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Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE)

Professional Title	Chartered Engineer
Membership levels	Technician Engineer (EngTech) Incorporated Engineer (IEng MICE) Chartered Civil Engineer (CEng MICE)
Route to Professional Membership	<p>EngTech approved level 3 diploma or an HND or foundation degree or above</p> <p>IEng accredited bachelor's degree OR a foundation degree, HNC or HND undergoing a Technical Report Route OR Further Learning Routes</p> <p>CEng An accredited four-year integrated MEng degree A bachelor's degree which is accredited as CEng with further learning, plus an accredited master's degree</p> <p>Non-accredited courses An Academic Assessment application</p>

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Method of Assessments	<p>Initial Professional Development (IPD) Your IPD is measured against a set of 'attributes', which you can achieve in three stages:</p> <p>Knowledge – a basic understanding and knowledge of the attribute and how you achieve it Experience – achieving the attribute in different situations, working under supervision Ability – achieving the attribute in different situations, assisting others and working unsupervised</p> <p>The Professional Review Made up of three steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial application - Basic information for ICE to organise interview 2. Submission – produce and submit a report of up to 5,000 words showing how you meet all the requirements to become an incorporated or chartered engineer and also your CPD records 3. Professional Review – interviewed by experienced civil engineering professionals to discuss report and showcase knowledge. A written exercise will also be required to assess written skills
Normal period to qualify	various
<p>Cost to Chartership</p> <p>https://www.ice.org.uk/membership/membership-fees-and-subscriptions</p>	<p>Career Appraisal £315.25 Experiential Learning Assessment £228.50 Further Learning Exam £228.50</p> <p>Incorporated Professional Review (IPR) £269 Chartered Professional Review (CPR) £352.75</p> <p>Annual membership fee to ICE (£347.75) + Engineering Council Entry Fee (£59.70) + Engineering Council Annual Fee (£45.91)</p>
Becoming a Fellow	<p>Not Applicable</p> <p>Chartered Civil Engineer (CEng MICE) is the highest level of membership ICE offers.</p>

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Accreditation of university programmes	Yes
Ongoing Regulation Requirements / CPD	No minimum amount specified. Focus is on the maintenance and enhancement of competence in relation to individual and their role

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Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)

Professional Title	Chartered Construction Manager Chartered Builder
Membership levels	Member (MCIOB) Fellow (FCIOB) Technical Member (TechCIOB) Applicant Student
Route to Professional Membership	<p>MCIOB</p> <p>Graduate-Based Skills Development Pathway [degree + flexible, fast-track to Chartership] Self-Development Pathway Knowledge Development Pathway [non-construction-related degree] Qualified & Experienced Practitioner Pathway - Industry Pathway</p> <p>Experience Based Experienced Practitioner Pathway [no degree / experience based] Qualified & Experienced Practitioner Pathway - Industry Pathway [degree + experience based] Qualified & Experienced Practitioner Pathway - N/SVQ Pathway [S/NVQ + experience based] Educator Pathway [degree + 3 years in construction-related research]</p> <p>FCIOB possess at least 5 years of experience leading an organisation, people and contributing to the industry, communities or society</p>
Method of Assessments	<p>Professional Review; an assessment of occupational competence, management competence and commitment to professionalism.</p> <p>Done via Chartered Membership Programme (CMP): This includes 4 x module exams (knowledge) and a final professional review (competency)</p>

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Normal period to qualify	2 to 3 years (pathway dependent)
Cost to Chartership	Admission Fee (£114 / £143) + Annual Subscription Fee (£322) + Final Assessment Fee (£347)
Becoming a Fellow	<p>2-part process: a 3,000 word reflective account of a project or initiative you have led, through which you can demonstrate your competence in leading people and organisations within the sector AND professional discussion which is called a viva voce exam, lasting approximately 1.5 hours.</p> <p>Before starting the Fellowship Application process, prospective candidates are asked to attend an online workshop.</p>
Accreditation of university programmes	Yes
Ongoing Regulation Requirements / CPD	Points-based CPD system Annual CPD audit of active members. Representative sample method used.

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Royal Town Planning Institute

Professional Title	Chartered Planner
Membership levels	Chartered Member (MRTPI) Fellow (FRTPI) Associate Member (AssocRTPI) Licentiate
Route to Professional Membership	<p>Licentiate RTPI accredited degree with 1 - 2 years experience OR RTPI Accredited degree apprenticeship</p> <p>Chartered Non-accredited Planning degree / RTPI Town Planning Technical Support Apprenticeship / Non-planning degree with 2 -7 years experience, going to Associate Membership held for a minimum of 2 years to progress to Chartered OR with 5 - 10 years experience</p>
Method of Assessments	<p>Assessments of Professional Competence</p> <p>7,000 word written submission (+/-10%) demonstrating their experience and how they have developed their competence. There are three parts to the submission:</p> <p>Practical Experience Statement Professional Competence Statement Professional Development Plan</p>
Normal period to qualify	2-10 years
Cost to Chartership	£290 one off fee on submission + Annual Subscription Fee (£90)
Becoming a Fellow	<p>A RTPI Nominations Sub Committee-reviewed written application, with supporting documentation:</p> <p>A completed Fellowship Application Form A chronological employment history; A 1000-2000 word statement detailing how they have met the</p>

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	<p>criteria; Nominations from four Chartered Members of the Institute. Nominations must be provided on the Fellowship Nomination Form, in accordance with instructions on the form. The data protection statement on the front page of the form must be completed.</p>
Accreditation of university programmes	Yes
Ongoing Regulation Requirements / CPD	<p>50 hours CPD per 2 year period + Personal Development Plan running in parallel with CPD activities Annual CPD audit of active members. Representative sample method used.</p>

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Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)

Professional Title	Chartered Safety and Health Practitioner
Membership levels	Technical (TechIOSH) Certified (CertIOSH) Chartered Member (CMIOSH) Chartered Fellow (CFIOSH)
Route to Professional Membership	Initial Professional Development (IPD) [when joining at Certified level] Or direct entry: Certified Members can progress through our Initial Professional Development route. You will need to maintain your continuing professional development record and pass IOSH Ethical Practice in OSH e-learning and assessment.
Method of Assessments	Assessment process (Electronic Skills Development Portfolio and/or Electronic Open Assessment) + continuing professional development (CPD) review + Peer Review Interview (PRI) *changes are coming into force in Spring 2024
Normal period to qualify	6months - 2 years
Cost to Chartership	£240 + Annual Membership Fee (£216) *Changes coming into force in Spring 2024 will result in a cost of £550
Becoming a Fellow	Application and evidence in the form of an online portfolio : held Chartered membership for five years or more a minimum of five years' relevant leadership experience in a senior-level role with responsibility for occupational safety and health (OSH) an up-to-date CPD record.
Accreditation of university programmes	No

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Ongoing Regulation
Requirements / CPD

30 hours per 12-month cycle
verified at point of renewal
No information on auditing process
Mandatory annual 'Ethical Practice' e-learning and assessment
for Chartered Member/Fellow - counts as 2 hrs of CPD per annual
cycle

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Professional Title	Chartered Management Accountant
Membership levels	Chartered Member (CGMA) Chartered Fellow (FCMA) Student
Route to Professional Membership	Two pathways to Chartership: Self-Tailored Learning and Assessment OR Finance Leadership Program (Guided Learning and Assessment)
Method of Assessments	Self-Tailored Learning and Assessment - Modular Approach 9 x 90 minute computer based on demand exams AND 3 x 3 hours exams at each level available during 4 windows per year AND Final assessment of practical experience (competency assessment on 3+years of practical experience) Finance Leadership Program - Continual Assessment No timed assessments, assessment is embedded in learning AND 3 x 3 hours exams at each level available during 4 windows per year
Normal period to qualify	Self-tailored Pathway : 3-4 years Finance Leadership Program: 1-4 years
Cost to Chartership	Self-tailored Pathway : PAYG Finance Leadership Program: £1,600 - £7,650 Registration Fee (£99) + Objective Tests and Case Study Exam Registration Fees (£2,127) + Subscription fee (£139)
Becoming a Fellow	A written application, with supporting documentation + up-to-date CPD record

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	<p>Three years of leadership experience in one of the following areas:</p> <p>Strategic leadership</p> <p>Technical leadership</p> <p>Operational/functional leadership</p>
Accreditation of university programmes	Yes
Ongoing Regulation Requirements / CPD	<p>No minimum amount specified. Focus is on the maintenance and enhancement of competence in relation to individual and their role.</p> <p>Annual audit based on representative sample of active registrants.</p>

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The British Psychological Society (BPS)

Professional Title	Chartered Psychologist
Membership levels	Chartered Psychologist (CPsychol) Graduate member (GMBPsS) Full Member (FMBPsS) Associate Member (AMBPsS) Student member
Route to Professional Membership	Achieved at least a 2:2 on an undergraduate honours degree (recognised as meeting Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership) OR have completed a society-accredited conversion qualification Along with ONE of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have undertaken society-accredited postgraduate qualifications and training - Have completed an assessment of competence in Coaching Psychology - Have appropriate postgraduate training and experience of teaching psychology - Have completed psychology research to doctoral level
Method of Assessments	Application
Normal period to qualify	varies
Cost to Chartership	Annual Subscription fee (£163.44) + non-refundable assessment fee (£45)
Becoming a Fellow	Not applicable Chartered Psychologist (CPsychol) is the highest level of membership BPS has to offer.
Accreditation of university programmes	Yes
Ongoing Regulation Requirements / CPD	No minimum amount specified. Focus is on the maintenance and continued of competence in relation to individual and their role. Annual declaration that continued competence is completed. Annual audit based on representative sample of active registrants.

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Association of South African Quantity Surveyors (ASAQS)

Professional Title	Registered Professional Quantity Surveyor (PrQS) in good standing with the South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession (SACQSP).
Membership levels	Professional Member (PMAQS) Member (MQAS) Associate Member (AAQS Associate) Student member (SAAQS Student)
Route to Professional Membership	Prescribed SACQSP Professional Skills Modules (18 modules) during their post-qualification terms as employed, supervised, mentored, Candidates OR successful completion of an SACQSP accredited degree AND Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) Interview
Method of Assessments	Professional Skills Modules and / or APC Interview
Normal period to qualify	33 months
Cost to Registration	Annual Subscription Fees (R 1,733.00) + non-refundable Enrolment Fee (R 575.00) + APC Interview Fee (R 2,528.00) Cost of Professional Skills Modules total R 6,210 (R 345 per module) Cost of Examination of Professional Skills Modules R 4,140 (R 230 per module exam)
Becoming a Fellow	N/A
Accreditation of university programmes	Yes – via The SA Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession
Ongoing Regulation Requirements / CPD	Minimum of 25 hours on an annual basis.

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The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS)

Professional Title	<p>“Sr” – The Abbreviation for Surveyor</p> <p>“Sr” is adopted as the abbreviation for surveyor by The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors.</p>
Membership levels	<p>Honorary Fellow (Hon. FHKIS)</p> <p>Fellow (FHKIS)</p> <p>Member (MHKIS)</p> <p>Associate Member (AMHKIS)</p>
Route to Professional Membership	<p>Be in possession of a degree (accredited or non-accredited)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Prescribed period of professional training (minimum 2-3 years)</p>
Method of Assessments	<p>Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) consisting of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logbook for minimum practical training • Pre-qualified structured training • Self-assessment report • Practical Task on an authentic work assignment • Summary of Experience + Synopsis of Structure Training • Final Assessment Interview
Normal period to qualify	2-3 years
Cost to Registration	<p>Non-refundable Application Fee (HK\$790) + Annual Subscription Fees (HK\$790)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>3-stages to the APC Fees :</p> <p>Application to Enter the APC (HK\$1,350)</p>

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	Application to Undertake Practical Task (HK\$1,050) Application for Final Assessment (HK\$900)
Becoming a Fellow	Recognition of professional achievement, with a minimum of 7 years registration as an MHKIS.
Accreditation of university programmes	Yes
Ongoing Regulation Requirements / CPD	Minimum of 60 hours over a 3-year period.

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Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM)

Professional Title	<p>“Sr” – The Abbreviation for Surveyor</p> <p>“Sr” is a certified abbreviation for surveyor by the Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia.</p>
Membership levels	<p>Fellow</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Graduate</p> <p>Probationer</p> <p>Student</p>
Route to Professional Membership	<p>Multiple points of entry to reach Graduate level. This includes 3-part exams;</p> <p>At Graduate level, supervised professional training (minimum 2-3years)</p>
Method of Assessments	Professional training report + 40 minutes professional interview
Normal period to qualify	2-3 years
Cost to Registration	One-Off Entrance Fee (RM50) + Annual Subscription Fee (RM100) + Final Assessments (RM300)
Becoming a Fellow	<p>A professional written paper relating to surveying, it should not be less than 2000 words.</p> <p>In the case of a candidate who holds a Master's Degree or a Doctorate in surveying, the requirement of the article may be waived.</p>

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Accreditation of university programmes	Yes
Ongoing Regulation Requirements / CPD	20 hour points per 12-month cycle

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Delivering confidence

We are RICS. As a member-led chartered professional body working in the public interest, we uphold the highest technical and ethical standards.

We inspire professionalism, advance knowledge and support our members across global markets to make an effective contribution for the benefit of society. We independently regulate our members in the management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others supports their professional practice and pioneers a natural and built environment that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive for all.

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