



APEC Supplementary Assessment

Guide for Candidates

Useful information:

- [Profile of Architecture in Australia](#)
- [Regulation of Architects in Australia](#)
- [National Standards of Competency for Architects](#)



1. Introduction

The APEC Supplementary Assessment (SA) is intended to test technical and professional responsibility, accountability and liability issues that are specific to Australia.

The Assessment is designed to provide the state and territory architect registration boards with confidence that those with APEC Architect status seeking registration in Australia understand the general principles behind applicable codes of practice, and have demonstrated a capacity to apply such principles safely and efficiently.

The Supplementary Assessment is conducted by interview. Candidates will not be required to have Australian professional experience.

2. Some Special Characteristics of the SA

The SA is an assessment of architects who have already been recognised by AACA as having satisfied all registration criteria except for some specific matters relating to legal and practice issues that may be unique to Australia.

The APEC Architect framework is designed to facilitate the export of professional services. It is probable that most APEC Architect candidates will not wish to establish permanent residence in Australia. The practice structure and system of management they intend to employ in this country will therefore need to be fully explored by the assessment panel.

Many candidates may not be fluent in English and they will have to satisfy assessors that they have devised strategies to deal with working in a foreign language.

3. Preparation

Whilst the SA is not intended as a test of detailed information, discussion must be sufficiently focused for a reliable conclusion to be reached by the panel. Candidates therefore must be well prepared, aware of the gaps in their knowledge of local practice matters and ready to advise the assessment panel how they plan to address them.

When presenting for the interview candidates should bring the portfolio of work submitted electronically with their application.

4. Conduct of the SA Interview

On acceptance of the application, an interview will be conducted by two experienced architect assessors.

APEC Architect candidates should demonstrate an acceptable knowledge of domain specific issues. In addition, because the APEC Architect candidate may not intend to take up residence in Australia, and/or because language may pose a problem, the intended system of management and delegation of responsibility will be an important element in SA discussions. Assessment of an APEC Architect candidate will generally fall into three broad categories.

1. Technical, Legal and Practice Issues:

Candidates will need to demonstrate their grasp of the technical, legal and practice issues specific to the host economy Australia, at a level commensurate with that expected of candidates for initial registration. (Because APEC Architects, by definition, have already satisfied most other Australian registration criteria, discussion on the home economy experience of candidates will be used only to identify domain specific issues, not to assess overall professional competence).

2. Proposed Management Plan:

The management plan devised by the candidate for projects to be undertaken in the host economy will be a key aspect of the domain specific assessment process.

In addition to exhibiting a full understanding of the matters referred to in the SA, it will be essential for candidates to satisfy assessors that they intend to adopt a practice structure that could continue to operate effectively under delegated authority if they were absent from the country, without diminishing their own professional accountability as a registered architect. Similarly it will be important for candidates to explain the management strategies they intend to adopt to overcome any language problems. In both circumstances these will involve a combination of professional collaboration and delegation of authority to appropriate professionals, technical advisers and staff.

Candidates should indicate the chain of delegation to be adopted for work undertaken and, where appropriate, to confirm that they personally would be the 'responsible architect', in the context of their obligation as an architect.

3. Responsibility, Accountability and Liability:

Candidates must understand the legal framework governing the practice of the profession in Australia. In addition it will also be important that candidates demonstrate their knowledge of the code of professional conduct and the consequences for breaching it, both in Australia and in their home economies. By doing so they will acknowledge their personal responsibility for their professional performance in this country regardless of their personal circumstances.

Refer to the [National Standards of Competency](#) for the performance criteria relevant to the Supplementary Assessment.

These performance criteria are the same as those required for the AACA Overseas Qualifications Assessment.

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