



**Architectural Education and the
Profession in Australia**

Research Study 2018

Call for Expressions of Interest

1. Introduction

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) is calling for expressions of interest from researchers seeking to work with us on a major study of “Architectural Education and the Profession in Australia”. This study will be undertaken from August 2018 to April 2019 and will be managed by the AACA and supported by the Association of Architecture Schools of Australasia (AASA), the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA), the Association of Consulting Architects (ACA), the Australian Deans of Built Environment and Design (ADBED), Government Architects Network Australia (GANA) and State and Territory Architect Registration Boards (ARBs).

Expressions of interest are welcomed from freelance researchers, university architecture academics, and other suitably qualified professionals. In addition, expressions of interest from organisations may be considered depending on the overall response to this document. Under contract with the AACA, researchers will undertake some or all of the following tasks:

- (i) detailed planning for the implementation of the project;
- (ii) literature review on contemporary architectural education issues;
- (iii) developing and administering survey instruments;
- (iv) designing and conducting structured interviews;
- (v) liaising with stakeholders and conducting workshops;
- (vi) drafting the research report and consolidating stakeholder feedback;
- (vii) general coordination of the project, including ethics frameworks for surveys and focus groups; and
- (viii) working with the AACA Project Director and the Research Oversight Group to ensure the delivery of a quality outcome within the specified budget and timeframe.

Researchers will ideally have experience in a university architecture department (or similar), will be familiar with the context of architectural practice and regulation in Australia, will be great written and verbal communicators, and will be comfortable working in a fast-paced research team environment. A commitment of at least two days per week is sought in the period August 2018 to November 2019 (excluding the Christmas-New Year period). Some travel within Australia will be required. Information to be provided in the Expression of Interest is set out in Section 4.

Following an assessment of the Expressions of Interest by a panel (including independent members), the AACA may at its discretion enter into negotiation with one or more researchers to join the project team. The AACA is located in the Sydney CBD however researchers may be located anywhere in Australia. It is assumed that will work primarily from their own premises and come to the AACA Office as needed. Any researchers wishing to base themselves in the AACA Office should indicate this in their Expression of Interest.

2. Project Outline

Education is critical to the development of the architectural profession and has ramifications nationally for the business and regulation of architects in Australia, and internationally in terms of the mobility of architects and firms practising overseas and to our increasing attractiveness to overseas students as a source of high quality professional education.

The AACA has initiated this work to coincide with the 10-year anniversary of the detailed study of architectural education in Australia published in 2008 by Michael Ostwald and Anthony Williams. This study provided reliable baseline data on questions including the number, background and opinions of architectural academics, the number and background of architectural students, teaching and learning approaches in architecture, the funding environment, and the relationship of architectural education to external processes such as professional accreditation. The new study will replicating much of this research as closely as practicable for comparison purposes.

Owing to the very substantial changes in higher education regulation, practice and funding models in the last decade, the new study will also be expanded to test the impact of such changes on architectural education in Australia (**Research Theme 1: Resourcing**). In addition, it will consider the evolving teaching and learning environment for design studies and the relationship of architectural education to the changing nature of practice and to changes in professional registration and accreditation requirements (**Research Theme 2: Teaching and Learning**). It will have regard to the desire for diversity in the architectural student body and workforce and comment on the pathways into and out of architectural education (**Research Theme 3: Pathways**).

The project will be managed by an AACA Project Director with the assistance of an:

- Expert Reference Group – up to five experienced academics and practitioners who will provide independent expert leadership in the conduct of the research; and
- Stakeholder Group – nominee from each of the key stakeholders (AASA / AIA / ACA / ADBED / GANA / ARBs). The primary role of this Group is to take into account the views of respective stakeholders in framing the study, to assist in identification of participants, to encourage participation in surveys, etc.

3. Timeline of the project

Stage 1: (August – September 2018)

- Finalisation of project methodology and research questions.
- In parallel with finalisation of project methodology and research questions initial survey design and development of survey questions.
- Surveys to be designed for the following targeted respondents, academics, regulators, practitioners, MArch students and potentially recent graduates.
- Ethics approval, development of Plain Language Statements and project documentation.
- Identification of focus group membership and stakeholder interviews.
- Survey administration and data collection to be clarified.
- Overview and mapping of relevant international and Australian statistics and research on architectural education since 2010 report.
- Creation of online survey instruments (e.g. via Survey Monkey).
- Pilot Survey (limited sample) and survey feedback.

Stage 2: (September-December 2018)

- Deployment of online surveys of academics, students, practitioners, regulators.
- Analysis of survey results and collation of descriptive statistics.
- Consideration of initial survey results in relation focus group and interview questions.

- Series of focus groups on critical issues – comprising academics, practitioners, students, and regulators, coordinated via stakeholder organisations.
- Interviews with key stakeholders.
- Commence drafting of report including report structure, relevant statistics and bibliography in the first instance.

Stage 3: (January – April 2019)

- Circulation of draft report with an executive summary.
- Consultation with stakeholders.
- Preparation of final report.

4. Response to Expressions of Interest

Responses should be sent in MS Word or RTF format to the AACA by 5:00pm Friday 10 August (email to alexmaroya@aaca.org.au) and should include:

- a cover letter of not more than two pages demonstrating capacity to undertake the potential duties listed on page one of this document;
- a CV of not more than three pages;
- a writing sample of 1000-3000 words (preferably from a published work);
- details of two referees (at least one from the architecture field);
- any limitations on your ability to commit at least two days per week to the project August 2018-April 2019 (excluding the Christmas-New Year period); and
- a desired hourly rate (ex-GST) and an indication of whether you would seek to be engaged as an employee or a contractor of the AACA; or details of your preferred arrangements to support your involvement in the project.

5. About us

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) is a not-for-profit company owned by the eight state and territory architect registration boards. It was founded in the 1970s and is the publisher of the National Standard of Competency for Architects, the benchmark for all assessment on the path to registration as an architect in Australia.

The AACA developed and maintains the Architectural Practice Examination, a nationally consistent, competency-based assessment for candidates seeking registration as an architect in Australia. In addition, the AACA manages the process for accrediting architecture qualifications offered by Australian universities.

The AACA is responsible for the assessment of overseas qualifications to determine comparability to an Australian qualification for the purpose of registration as an architect and is the Federal Government-appointed body for assessing qualifications for the purpose of migration to Australia as an architect. In addition, the AACA is the lead organisation for the negotiation of mutual recognition of registration for architects between Australia and overseas jurisdictions.