

# Guidance for referencing architectural qualifications - employers

## ARBV Guidance for employers when referencing architecture degree holders gaining practical experience.

Unregistered and uninsured persons cannot work as an architect in Victoria. The Architects Act 1991 (the Act) prohibits 'holding out' or representing unregistered persons or bodies to be an architect or as providing architectural services. Care must be taken when describing or presenting information about unregistered staff on websites, professional networking sites and on social media. Those who engage in prohibited conduct may be prosecuted by the ARBV.

For information on the Legal Framework please refer to our Fact Sheet **Guidance for Prohibited Conduct - Legal Framework**

**Scenario: I have a staff member who has completed a degree in Architecture and is working towards becoming registered under supervision.**

**Can we use the title 'Graduate Architect' to describe this staff member?**

**Can we use the title 'Graduate of Architecture' or 'Architecture Graduate' or include their qualifications (i.e. B. Arch or M. Arch) after their name?**

Can we use the title 'Graduate Architect'?

**NO.** You cannot use the title 'Graduate Architect'. Use of this title before the person is registered as an architect is an offence under the Act.

Can we use the title 'Graduate of Architecture' or 'Architecture Graduate' or include their qualifications (i.e. B. Arch or M. Arch) after their name?

**IT DEPENDS.** You may use these titles and reference the person's qualifications without committing an offence in circumstances where this does not amount to a representation that the person is an architect or provides the services of an architect. For example, it may be clear from the context within which the title or qualifications are used that the person is not an architect (e.g. on the firm website all architects are given the title 'Architect' whereas the person is described as 'Architecture Graduate'). In that situation you should ensure that the title and qualifications are accompanied by a sufficiently prominent disclaimer (i.e. of equal prominence to the title or qualifications) to make it clear to that the person is not an architect.