

Guidance for referencing architectural qualifications - employee

ARBV Guidance about 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 completed a degree in Architecture. I'm working towards becoming registered under supervision in an architectural firm approved by the ARBV.

Can I use the title 'Graduate Architect'?

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

Can I use the title 'Graduate Architect'?

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

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

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