

# Guidance for referencing architectural qualifications - allied profession

## ARBV Guidance for referencing architectural qualifications when working in an allied profession

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'm working in an allied profession preparing for my Architectural Practice Examination (APE).**

**Can I use the title 'Graduate Architect'?**

**Can I use the title 'Graduate of Architecture' or 'Architectural 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 'Architectural 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; or
- that your employer is an architect or provides the services of an architect.

For example, if you are working for a building design company, using the title 'Graduate of Architecture' or 'Architectural Graduate' or inclusion of your post-nominals may suggest that you are an architect or that your employer's business provides architectural services.

In that situation you should ensure that your title or qualifications are accompanied by a sufficiently prominent disclaimer (i.e. of equal prominence) that makes it clear that you are not an architect and that you are not providing the services of an architect via your employer.