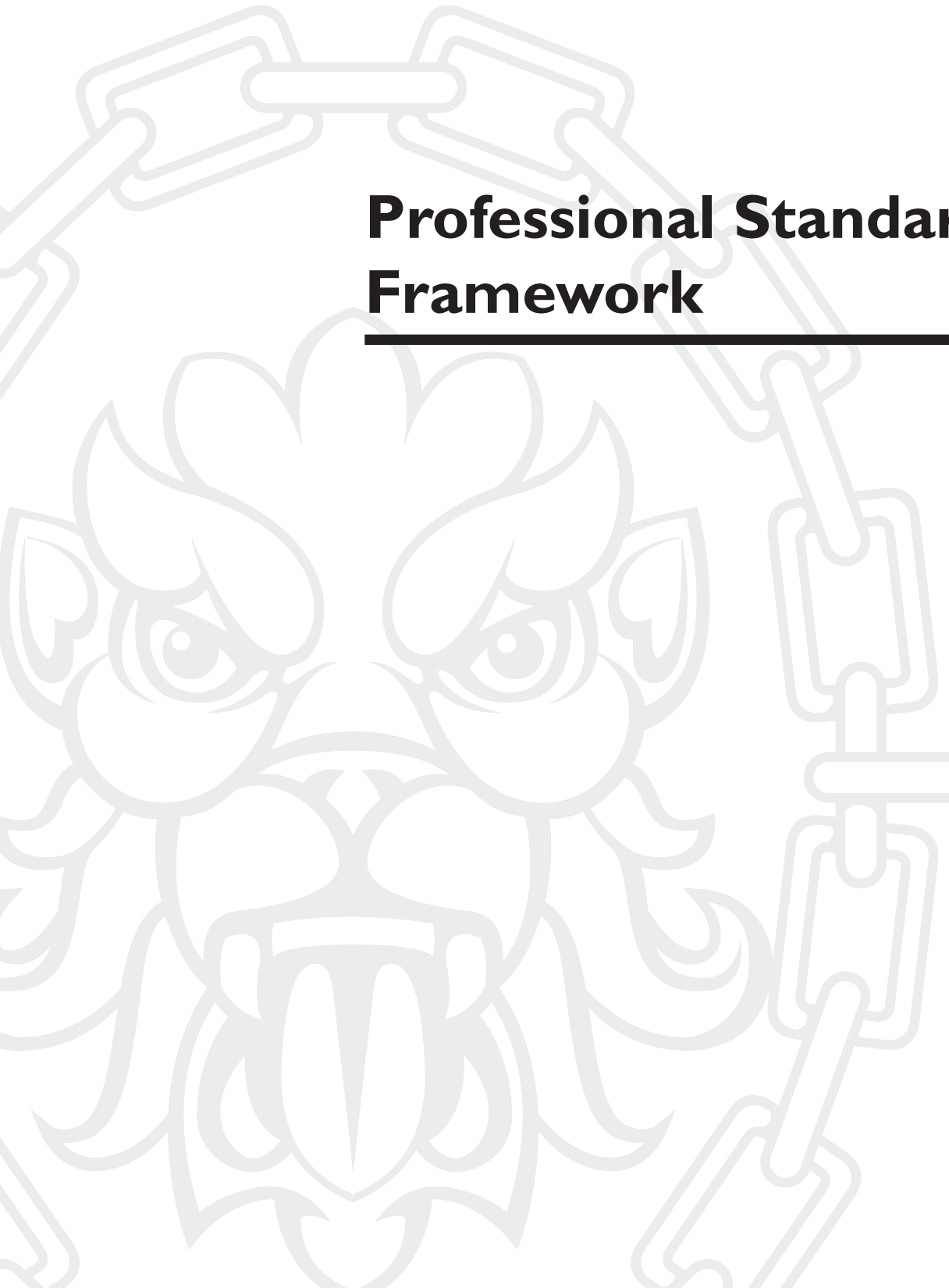


ATR

**Professional Standards
Framework**



Foreword

The Architectural Technologists' Register sets, assesses and monitors the competency standards for registered Architectural Technologists in the Republic of Ireland in order for them to provide the functions of Assigned and Design Certifiers under the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2015 [BC(A)R 2015].

Purpose and use

The purpose of the Professional Standards Framework document is to provide comprehensive information and guidance for a range of audiences including:

- Those involved in the design, delivery and review of the academic provision and standards of Architectural Technology education;
- Prospective students considering studying Architectural Technology, or current students;
- Employers, organisations, clients, public bodies or professionals seeking information on the knowledge, skills and standards generally expected of Chartered Architectural Technologists;
- Registrants/Potential Registrants seeking guidance on continuing professional development;
- Members of the public and society.

The document is set out in two distinct stages and illustrates the qualifying process and mandatory standards an applicant must satisfy to achieve Registrant status with the Architectural Technologists' Register.

- Stage 1: Educational Standards. CIAT Accredited Honours or Masters degree (or equivalent).
- Stage 2: Practice Standards. Practice Assessment.

The educational standards have been adopted from the UK QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Honours and Masters degree level qualifications in Architectural Technology. Such programmes are designed and delivered by educational establishments and are Accredited by CIAT.

The practice standards are measured through the Professional Assessment which is an evaluation of prospective Registrants' knowledge, experience, skills and professionalism.

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Stage I: Educational Standards (Accredited Architectural Technology Honours or Masters Degree, or equivalent)

The ever-increasing impact and influence of Architectural Technology on building design, construction processes and the science and engineering of buildings have seen rapid growth and change.

These changes impact on the broadening and deepening of the underpinning knowledge of Architectural Technology and the need for specialisation and diversification above an Honours degree level into Masters degree level and beyond.

Registrants are required to identify, investigate, research and evaluate differing needs, functions and aspirations of society within the built environment to ensure that projects are designed and constructed to be economical, environmentally sustainable and robust, and perform efficiently and effectively within their planned life.

These requirements must also recognise how client and social needs influence the design and construction process which includes users' experience of the completed building or project. In doing so, modern design and construction involve the use of Architectural Technology through new materials and components, the development of new concepts, modelling, techniques and strategies, together with management of the project. Design and construction of a project may also include reuse, refurbishment, renovation and maintenance.

Adding to this is the impact of information and communication technologies, building information modelling and modelling the whole building life cycle process, procurement strategies and extensive service installations and their influence on the design and construction process.

The design and construction functions have therefore become more complex and Architectural Technology is a key and professional discipline with a primary focus on designing for building performance and the construction and production of building projects through and by the management and integration of technology.

Registrants who have not successfully completed a CIAT Accredited Honours or Masters degree level qualification will need to demonstrate equivalence that they have the necessary underpinning knowledge required of an Architectural Technology professional.

While it is acknowledged that the depth and breadth in which individual aspects are treated may vary within the nature of specific job roles of the professional Architectural Technologist, all Registrants must be conversant with the main aspects relating to design, technology, management and practice within a national and international context.

The following standards are extracted from the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Architectural Technology, for graduates of Honours and Masters degrees. These criteria form the mandatory threshold education standards that all Registrant Architectural Technologists must be able to demonstrate:

- a systematic understanding and critical awareness of topics which are informed by the subject of Architectural Technology;
- a critical awareness of the history and context, and the political, economic, environmental, social and technological aspects that inform and influence the practice of Architectural Technology nationally and internationally;
- an ability to problem solve and to identify appropriate methodologies to deal with complex problems and realise design into built form through the generation of detailed design solutions that respond to familiar, unfamiliar and unpredictable situations;
- an ability to successfully complete substantial sustainable and inclusive design and research projects, systematic review or systematic case study informed by wider current understandings in the subject.
- an awareness of building elements, components, systems, and methods used for different building typologies;
- an awareness of current topics and practices which inform the discipline of Architectural Technology including new and emerging technologies;
- an awareness of project and design management, project procurement and process, construction and contract management;
- an ability to identify hazards and risks and develop and maintain safe systems of work and legal and relevant legislation and regulatory frameworks;
- an ability to develop critical discussion and analysis of complex concepts and to work independently with some originality and as a member of a team identifying personal development needs and to plan to meet these needs through relevant and appropriate methods.

Those applicants for Registrant status who do not possess an Accredited award must demonstrate how their educational awards and/or experience satisfy the criteria above when undertaking the Practice Assessment.

Stage 2: Practice Standards (Practice Assessment)

Architectural Technology is both a creative and innovative profession and is an ever-evolving design discipline. It embraces and incorporates a wide variety of professional functions that are underpinned by knowledge, skills and experience within the built environment sphere; some of which are highly specialised. Architectural Technology Registrants are comprised of professionals practising in a variety of roles which sit within the discipline.

To recognise the diversity of activities undertaken by practitioners within Architectural Technology, the Practice Assessment process assesses the performance of practitioners that work across a range of functions and allows candidates that have applied for Registrant status to use their experience in their chosen field to demonstrate their competence.

Registrants will have demonstrated their experience in relation to their area(s) of practice to illustrate the type of projects in which they are involved. Each prospective Registrant's application will therefore be tailored to the individual and must directly correlate to the four core areas identified — designing, managing, practising and developing (self).

An example of this is as follows:

Designing

- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of Architectural Technology in relation to candidate's area of practice/employment including building standards (planning, building control regulations, etc) and the principles, techniques and methods used in relation to construction materials.
- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of design related to candidate's area of Architectural Technology. Consideration given to: user and market needs, cost, quality, environmental impact, safety, reliability, appearance, fitness for purpose, life cycle, maintenance and refurbishment.
- Evaluate effectiveness of design solutions against original specification.

Managing

- Demonstration of an ability to work as an individual or as part of a team, which may include leading and managing budgets, people or projects.
- Demonstration of evidence of conflict resolution.
- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of customer service by identifying the customer and their needs and demonstrate interaction with professional and non-professional colleagues and clients with regard to providing information and advice relating to candidate's area of Architectural Technology.

Practising

- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of new and emerging technologies, processes and applications of sustainability, as well as research and continuous improvement relating to innovation in candidate's area of Architectural Technology. Consideration given to: economic, social, environmental, technological and legal issues related to candidate's area of Architectural Technology.
- Identification of factors affecting project implementation including resource management, negotiating and agreeing terms and conditions of contracts or agreements and controlling budgets.
- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of Health and Safety and an ability to identify hazards and risks and develop and maintain safe systems of work related to candidate's area of Architectural Technology.
- Demonstration of a knowledge, understanding and application of other relevant legislation and regulatory frameworks.

Developing (self)

- Demonstration of knowledge, understanding and application of continuous improvement and quality assurance techniques related to candidate's area of Architectural Technology.
- Demonstration of an ability to identify personal development needs, plan to meet these needs and achievement of these aims.
- Development of personal continuing professional development (CPD) goals.

Code of Conduct

All Registrants must adhere to the professional *Code of Conduct* which includes the requirement to obtain and maintain adequate professional indemnity insurance when providing services directly to a client and in compliance with the Building Control (Act) Regulations 2015.

Registrants must undertake the required minimum time of continuing professional development per annum, keeping themselves informed of current practices and developments appropriate to the type and level of their responsibilities.

The professional *Code of Conduct* places obligations on Registrants to practise in a professional and businesslike manner. Registrants are required to:

- endeavour to ensure that the services offered are appropriate to the client's requirements and that their terms of engagement are given in writing and have been accepted.
- act with integrity, faithfully and honourably.
- ensure that they have adequate resources to meet the client's requirements and not misrepresent the services available.
- obtain and maintain adequate professional indemnity insurance if providing services directly to clients. Professional indemnity insurance is an important provision for peace of mind for the Member and their client. It is an insurance against professional negligence to protect the client in the unlikely event of such certain issues occurring; and
- only offer and provide services within their professional capabilities and decline to offer and/or provide a service to a client if they knowingly lack adequate resources or if appropriate, advise and recommend the necessity of assistance from a suitably qualified professional.

The ATR sets the standard for professional conduct in the discipline of Architectural Technology. In this way, ATR serves as a benchmark for anyone seeking to commission the services of a Registered Architectural Technologist to act as an Assigned or Design Certifier. In the unlikely event that any Registrant fails to reach the required standard of professional practice, the ATR has a procedure to deal with these occurrences.

For further information about this document or about becoming a Registrant Architectural Technologist please contact atr@ciat.org.uk

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