

# INFORMATION SHEET FOR CANDIDATES ON THE CHANGES TO THE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE EXAMINATION FROM 2024

## 1. Overview

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) conducts a review of all its processes and programs at five yearly intervals to ensure standards of competency not only keep pace with changes across the profession but also serve as a driver for further improvement.

The [2021 National Standard of Competency for Architects](#) (NSCA) will be implemented across the Architectural Practice Examination in 2024.

### **The National Standard of Competency for Architects (NSCA)**

The National Standard of Competency for Architects (NSCA) describes what is reasonably expected of a person who can demonstrate the standard of skill, care and diligence widely accepted in Australia as a competent and professional architect.

Having one Standard that underpins accreditation of architectural education and assessment programs provides a clear roadmap for the development of competency on the path to registration as an architect.

The 2021 NSCA has been streamlined from 70 to 60 Performance Criteria – 35 of which will be tested across the Architectural Practice Examination from 2024 onwards. Accompanying the 2021 NSCA are the [Explanatory Notes](#) which provide an explanation of specific Performance Criteria particularly those focussing on new areas of learning for architects, graduates, students and educators aiming to increase their knowledge, competency and experience in these areas

## 2. Key Changes to the Architectural Practice Examination

### **APE Part 1: Submission of Logbook and Statement of Practical Experience**

- Practical Experience to be logged in an online version of the AACA Logbook
- There is no longer a requirement to log experience against Observer, Participant and Executive
- The Statement of Practical Experience must be verified by a registered architect or if applicable an appropriate professional.
- Candidates are required to complete the APE Performance Criteria Report cross-referencing their experience to the Performance Criteria and submit it with the Statement of Practical Experience.
- Candidates are required to review the AACA APE Support Material and Online Resources

### **APE Part 2: National Examination Paper (NEP)**

- The scenarios and questions in the National Examination Paper will be expanded to reflect the 2021 NSCA.
- The number of questions and time allowed to complete the National Examination Paper will be increased from a 45-question exam to be completed in 90 minutes, to an 80-question exam to be completed in 120 minutes.

### **APE Part 3: Examination by Interview**

- Discussion in the Interview will focus on the areas of practice in line with the 2021 NSCA.

## **3. Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who is impacted by the changes to the APE?**

All candidates applying for the APE from 2024 are impacted. This includes candidates resitting Parts 1, 2 and 3 from previous years.

### **What are the main changes between the 2015 and 2021 National Standard of Competency for Architects?**

Candidates should refer to [2021 vs 2015 explained](#).

### **What are the application requirements for the 2024 Architectural Practice Examination?**

Candidates should read the APE Handbook (and accompanying documents to understand the changes and submission requirements) for the APE from 2024.

### **I failed the National Examination Paper prior to the new system coming into use. I intend re-sitting in 2024. Can I update my logbook in line with the 2015 NSCA?**

No, you will have to log your experience using the new online AACA Logbook and following the updated APE Handbook. There is no transition period and all submissions, including resits for Part 2 and Part 3 need to be in the 2024 format.

### **I failed the Part 3 Interview in 2023 and intend re-sitting in 2024. Do I have to resubmit my Statement of Practical Experience and logbook in the 2024 format?**

Yes, candidates are required to update and resubmit the Statement of Practical Experience with supervisor signature and log experience using the online AACA Logbook in line with the 2021 NSCA.