

Approved Qualifications Policy

1. Background

- 1.1 The Valuers Registration Board of Queensland ("**the Board**") is Queensland's property valuation regulator. It is responsible for affording protection to the public, maintaining professionalism within the valuation profession and upholding professional standards of practise. The Board's jurisdiction to determine appropriate standards for registration under the *Valuers Registration Act 1992* (the Act) is an imperative function in protecting public interests and maintaining public confidence in the valuation profession.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 This document:

- a) sets out the policy used by the Board in determining what is an 'approved qualification' under s30 of the Act;
- b) provides guidance to the Board, Registered Valuers, potential applicants for registration, and the public on how qualifications are assessed; and,
- c) provides consistency in the consideration of qualifications to determine if they provide a satisfactory educational standard to support an application for registration.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 Capitalised terms used in this Policy which are not defined have the meanings defined in the Approved Qualifications Procedure (PRO-XX).

4. Authority

- 4.1 The Act outlines the application process for registration and authorises the Board to determine what is an approved course of study to be considered for registration.
- 4.2 Section 29 of the Act outlines the application requirements to be registered under the Act. It empowers the Board to determine the form and evidence required to support such an application.
- 4.3 Section 30 of the Act outlines the character, competence, experience and qualification requirements that applicants for registration are required to meet. In particular, Section 30 (c) provides that the applicant: -
- 'has had sufficient practical experience over a period of at least 3 years since starting and approved course of study to enable the person to competently value land in Queensland.'
- 4.4 This Policy was adopted by the Board on 14/07/2020 and applies from 15/07/2020.

5. Scope

- 5.1 This Policy, in conjunction with the Approved Qualifications Procedure (PRO-xx), applies to all applications for registration under the Act. It guides the process and Decision making of the Board to accept a qualification as an 'approved course' under the Act.

6. Principles governing 'Approved Courses of Study'

- 6.1 The Board recognises that the educational requirements for registration is critical to ensure that applicants have a minimum acceptable standard of theoretical knowledge in valuation. This assists in protecting public interests and maintaining public confidence in the valuation profession.
- 6.2 In determining what is an acceptable approved course of study, the Board will reference the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) and also consider the third-party accreditation obtained for each qualification to support its decision-making process.
- 6.3 The Board acknowledges the AQF as the basic framework for regulating qualifications in the Australian education and training system. The AQF was first introduced in 1995 to underpin the national system of qualifications in Australia and is the agreed policy of Commonwealth, State and Territory ministers. Under this framework, the Board sets a Bachelor qualification (AQF – Level 7) in valuation as the minimum educational level required for registration under the Act. A list of the different AQF Levels is provided below.
- [Level 1 – Certificate I](#)
 - [Level 2 – Certificate II](#)
 - [Level 3 – Certificate III](#)
 - [Level 4 – Certificate IV](#)
 - [Level 5 – Diploma](#)
 - [Level 6 – Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree](#)
 - [Level 7 – Bachelor Degree](#)
 - [Level 8 – Bachelor Honours Degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma](#)
 - [Level 9 – Masters Degree](#)
 - [Level 10 – Doctoral Degree](#)
- 6.4 In addition to the AQF level requirements, the qualification being considered must also contain a minimum level of valuation content within its curriculum. The Board recognises the Australian Property Institute's (API) 12 core knowledge fields as an appropriate standard.

7. Australian Qualifications Accreditation

- a) The Board recognises that the Australian Property Institute (API) PI has a long history of accrediting courses in Australia. It works closely with academic institutions to ensure that qualifications are of an appropriate standard to provide graduates with a sound understanding of the theoretical principles that underpin valuation practice.
- b) The Board will accept qualifications accredited by the API for their Certified Practising Valuer designation as an 'approved course of study' for registration. Applicants for registration are not required to be a member of the API.
- c) The Board reserves its right to change the status of API accredited courses as it considers appropriate.

8. Overseas Qualifications Accreditation

- a) The Board recognises that it will receive applications for registration from individuals with qualifications obtained overseas. These qualifications will not be accredited under the AQF.
- b) The Board recognises that the API has reciprocal arrangements with some overseas organisations, such as the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Property Institute of New Zealand (PINZ) regarding the suitability of some overseas qualifications
- c) The Board also recognises that the API will undertake an assessment of an overseas qualification to Australian standards that are not covered through reciprocal arrangements. The outcome of such an assessment is provided in writing by the API and this written assessment will provide guidance to the Board on the suitability of an overseas qualification.
- d) The Board also recognises its relationship with Prescribed Institutes identified in the Act and associated Regulations and may seek their guidance when considering overseas qualification. The Prescribed Institutes are: -
 - The Property Institute of New Zealand
 - The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
 - The Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers
 - The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
- e) The Board reserves the right to make its own determination of overseas qualification as it considers appropriate. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis and with reference to all relevant information provided to the Board to ensure an appropriate Decision is reached.
- f) The Board will review the operation of this Qualifications Policy annually.