

PATHWAYS TO BECOME A CHARTERED ARCHITECT IN SRI LANKA

The Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) established by the “Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Law No. 1 of 1976” and amended by the “Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (Amendment) Act No. 14 of 1996” is empowered to regulate and control architectural education in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, SLIA has established curricula for Parts I, II & III Examinations of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects. Any person who intends to register with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) to qualify to practice as a Chartered Architect or Architect in Sri Lanka has to pass the above examinations.

SLIA conducts a structured and systematic approach in evaluating applications submitted by academic institutions of Sri Lanka for validation of programmes of study in architecture conducted by those institutions.

Only those candidates who have passed the Part I and Part II Examinations of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects or obtained exemptions thereof are eligible to sit the Part III Examination of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects which is conducted only by SLIA.

SLIA follows three processes to admit persons to obtain professional qualifications to register to practice Architecture in Sri Lanka. These are the **Examination Process**, and the **Exemption Process**.

THE EXAMINATION PROCESS

This refers to the formal path of architectural education for candidates to become Chartered Architects. SLIA conducts the following examinations annually for eligible candidates.

1. **Part I Examination of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects** (SLIA Part I).
2. **Part II Examination of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects** (SLIA Part II). Passing or obtaining exemptions from the SLIA Part I Examination is a prerequisite to sit or obtain exemptions from the SLIA Part II Examination.
3. **Part III Examination of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects** (SLIA Part III). Passing or obtaining exemptions from the SLIA Part I and Part II Examinations is a prerequisite to sit the SLIA Part III Examination.

Teaching at SLIA Part I and SLIA Part II levels are done by Schools of Architecture. SLIA is the only institution that teaches and prepares candidates to sit the SLIA Part III Examination.

Candidates who pass the SLIA Part III Examination are eligible to apply and obtain Corporate Membership of the SLIA after which they can register at the ARB as Chartered Architects.

THE EXEMPTION PROCESS

SLIA considers the exemption of Sri Lankan qualifications and foreign qualifications separately.

1. For Sri Lankan qualifications; validations are done only at Part I and Part II levels. SLIA has granted three validation statuses. Exemption of Sri Lankan architectural qualifications are based on the validation status granted by SLIA to architectural educational programmes as follows.

Status	Entitlement
Candidate Status	Graduates can sit the respective Examination of SLIA.
Listed Course	Graduates can apply to obtain exemptions from relevant SLIA Examinations.
Accredited Status	Graduates are exempted from the respective SLIA Examination.

Architecture Programmes in Sri Lanka that have been validated by SLIA are as follows;

Institution	Programme of Study	Validation status granted	Remarks
Department of Architecture of the University of Moratuwa	Honours Degree of Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch.)	Accredited Status	a. Those who have obtained 90 credits in the first 3 years of the programme are entitled to be exempted from the SLIA Part I Examination. b. Graduates are entitled to be exempted from the SLIA Part I and SLIA Part II Examinations.
City School of Architecture (Colombo) Limited	CSA Diploma in Architectural Studies	Accredited Status	Exempted from the SLIA Part I Examination.
	CSA Higher Diploma in Architecture	Accredited Status	Exempted from the SLIA Part II Examination.
School of Architecture of the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT), Malabe Campus	Advanced Diploma in Architecture	Listed Course from 2022	a. Graduates who qualified in 2022 and after are eligible to apply for exemptions from the SLIA Part I Examination. b. Graduates who qualified before 2022 are eligible to sit the SLIA Part I Examination.
	Graduate Diploma in Architecture	Candidate Status	Graduates who passed or have been exempted from the SLIA Part I Examination are eligible to sit the SLIA Part II Examination.
Department of Architecture of the Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), Southern Campus	Bachelor of Architecture (BArch)	Candidate Status	a. Those who completed Levels 1,2,3 with 28 weeks of inbuilt Practical Training are eligible to sit the SLIA Part I Examination. b. Graduates who passed the SLIA Part I Examination are eligible to sit the SLIA Part II Examination.

2. The evaluation policy of qualifications granted by foreign educational institutions is given below;

A. For graduates of foreign programmes accredited by one of the following Institutions

- a. Grant Exemption (Part I and/or Part II level) if an architectural programme is accredited by the national institute of architects of a country that is a signatory to the Canberra Accord.
- b. Grant Exemption (Part I and/or Part II level) if an architectural programme delivered in the United Kingdom is accepted by the Architects Registration Board of the United Kingdom.
- c. Grant Exemption (Part I and Part II level) if an architectural programme delivered in Australia is accredited by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia.

Granting exemptions under this procedure is referred to as Stage 1 evaluation.

B. For graduates of foreign programmes not accredited by any of the above Institutions

- a. Grant Exemption if after a detailed evaluation by a resource person appointed by BAE establishes that the applicant's learning outcomes are in par with the SLIA Part I and/or SLIA Part II Curriculum. Granting exemptions under this procedure is referred to as Stage 2 evaluation.
- b. Grant Exemption if an applicant's qualification has been evaluated and accepted by SLIA under Stage 2 evaluation of a previous applicant within 5 years.
- c. Non-granting Exemption if the applicant's learning outcomes are not in par with the SLIA Part I and/or SLIA Part II Curriculum.

C. For foreign professional qualification holders practicing as architects in other countries

These applicants upon successful evaluation are exempted from the Part I and Part II Examinations of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects. They are required to;

- a. Acquire practical training experience in Sri Lanka under a Registered Trainer Practice for a specified limited period of not more than 52 weeks.
- b. Exempted from the subjects Professional Correspondence for Project Administration (PCPA) and Case Study.
- c. Sit and pass the Assignments, Question Paper and Viva Voce Examination.