



RIAS

The Royal Incorporation
of Architects in Scotland

Advice on Transferring to Retired Membership Category

Many architects remain actively interested in the profession after retirement. Transferring to the retired category ensures that you can retain your status as an RIAS or RIBA member, stay up to date, receive discounts on events and share the expertise you have gained in a long career in architecture.

We offer retired membership as an acknowledgement of your services to architecture and as a thank you for your years of support of your professional institute.

Still Practising or Working?

If you are still practising architecture you cannot transfer to the Retired category. However, if you heading towards retirement and only practising on a modest basis, earning £20,000pa or less, you may retain full RIAS-only or joint RIAS/RIBA membership for a reduced subscription of £80 (2015 rate).

ARB Registration

Once members have transferred to the retired status, there is no requirement to stay on the ARB register, or meet CPD requirements. It is a matter of individual choice whether to retain registered status.

The ARB website states:

“Retirement and resigning from the register: You may want to stay on the register, even though you might be retired or you are no longer working as an architect. We find that with many people, the main reason for this is that they still want to call themselves an architect. You only have to be on the register if you are using the title ‘architect’ for business purposes (under section 20 of the Architects Act 1997). If you aren’t in business or practice, you can still call yourself an architect socially as long as you do not offer your services as one. Please email our registration team at registrationdepartment@arb.org.uk or call us on 020 7580 5861 for more information.”

Retired Membership Benefits

RIAS Retired members retain all rights of membership including:

- ebulletins and the *RIAS Quarterly*;
- use of the suffix “RIAS” or “FRIAS”,
- full voting rights at General Meetings; and
- eligibility for election to Council and appointment to boards and committees.

RIBA retired members retain all rights of membership including:

- all the perks of RIBA membership for a reduced fee;
- free subscription to the *RIBA Journal*;
- an entry in the RIBA Member Directory; and
- use of the “RIBA” suffix

RIAS/RIBA Joint Members

The RIAS and RIBA signed a new partnership agreement in 2009. The joint retired membership category was removed as RIBA and RIAS employ different criteria for retired members and we agreed to offer separate memberships to our respective retired members.

RIAS Retired Membership Eligibility

To qualify for RIAS retired status, the RIAS Byelaws require that:

- you have been a member of the RIAS for a minimum of five years;
- you have reached the age of 55 (or earlier at the Council's discretion); and
- you must declare that you have entirely ceased practising as an architect.¹

There is no charge for RIAS Retired membership.

RIBA Retired Membership Eligibility

To qualify for RIBA Retired status, you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- you must have previously been an RIBA Member for a minimum of five years;
- if you are working, it must be less than 7 hours per week in any profession **other** than architecture; and
- you must declare that you have completely retired from practice¹ (in accordance with the *Architect's Registration Act 1997*).

UK Retired Membership £80

PI Insurance

Finally, retired members are reminded of their obligations under the ARB Code concerning professional Indemnity Insurance. 'Run-off' cover can be obtained, and advice should be sought from insurers. Contact: Susan Riccio on 0131 311 4212, susan.riccio@marsh.com or Dave Bathgate on 0131 311 4130, david.bathgate@marsh.com

¹ Practice includes acting as a consultant or undertaking any form of architectural work, either part-time or occasional. The ARB Guidance note issued in 1998, with reference to the use of suffixes including the word 'architect' (i.e. RIAS or RIBA) states:

Proceedings (by ARB) could not be initiated against unregistered persons who are completely retired from all types of practice or business, because the (1997 Architects) Act only applies to person in practice or business.

RIAS (who must be registered with ARB under RIAS Byelaws) and RIBA members will be considered active by ARB, unless completely retired.

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