

Sustainable Development

Professional Qualifications, Bodies and Acronyms

Introduction

Amida places candidates in a range of companies all working towards ensuring a sustainable future.

Many of the roles we search for require the candidate to have specific qualifications. For some of the more technical roles this is fairly straight forward: if you have the qualification, you can be considered for the job, if you don't, then you cannot. For other roles, for example in corporate sustainability or responsible investment, the candidate could have a range of qualifications, all of which demonstrate advanced knowledge of the appropriate sector.

Memberships of certain organisations are not usually an official requirement but can add weight to an application, as depending on the level of membership and the organisation, the candidate may have had to have their knowledge assessed.

Amida is an international business, which means we work with clients in many different countries across the globe, which often also means that qualifications and qualification requirements vary.

All of this can be very confusing. Below we have provided a list of qualifications and professional bodies based in the UK and internationally, where indicated, which will hopefully serve to clarify this. This list is not comprehensive, but can be used as a starting point for further research.

ARB- Architects Registration Board

The UK's statutory regulator of registered professional architects

Bachelor Degree- Usually a 3-year undergraduate degree involving lectures, seminars, reading, group work, essays and a dissertation (or long individual research project). The Scottish system is slightly different in that most Bachelor degrees last 4 years. BA- Bachelor of Arts; BEng- Bachelor of Engineering; BSc- Bachelor of Science. Some engineers have a BSc in engineering. Also see Master degree

BREEAM- Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method

A voluntary measurement rating system for green buildings, designed to assess sustainable building design, construction and operation against a set of standards

CfSH- Code for Sustainable Homes

A Government-owned, voluntary environmental impact rating system for the housing sector, setting standards for energy efficiency and sustainability under current building regulations

Chartered Status- Has taken professional exams and/or assignments to achieve chartered status. This usually takes 5+ years experience to achieve. CEng- Chartered Engineer; CGeol- Chartered Geologist, CEnv- Chartered Environmentalist

CHP- Combined Heat and Power

CHP generates electricity whilst also capturing the heat that is produced and using it to heat buildings resulting in much more efficient heating processes

CIBSE- Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers

CIHT- Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation.

CRC- Carbon Reduction Commitment

This is a mandatory cap and trade scheme aimed at improving energy efficiency and cutting emissions in the UK. It applies to large non energy-intensive organisations in both the public and private sectors

CSR- Corporate Social Responsibility

A company's work to ensure its impacts on society are positive and less damaging. Often used interchangeably with terms such as corporate sustainability and can also include environmental impacts

DEC- Display Energy Certificate

DECs show the actual energy usage of a building, the Operational Rating, informing the public of the actual energy efficiency of a building

EIA- Environmental Impact Assessment

An assessment made of positive and negative environmental impacts that a proposed development or project may have on the natural environment

EMS- Environmental Management System

A series of documents and procedures written by organisations to monitor and mitigate their negative environmental impacts and improve their overall environmental performance. Some EMSs adhere to the ISO 14001 framework (See ISO14001)

Energy Institute- A Royal Chartered membership organisation for the energy industry

EPC- Energy Performance Certificate

For both domestic and non-domestic buildings, an EPC aims to guide and inform, as well as provide recommendations on ways to improve and maximise the energy rating of the property

ESD- Environmental Sustainable Design

ESD, otherwise known as Sustainable Design is the philosophy of designing physical objects, aspects of the built environment and services to comply with the principles of economic, social, and ecological sustainability

ESG- Environmental, Social and Governance

ESG issues are commonly referred to when discussing responsible investment and sustainable finance

Estidama- Middle Eastern sustainable building code

EU ETS- European Union Emissions Trading Scheme

A cap and trade scheme similar to the CRC in the UK, but applying to larger industrial energy producers Europe-wide. It is the largest international scheme for the trading of greenhouse gas emission allowances, with the 'cap' being reduced over time so that emissions reduce

Eur Ing- European Chartered Engineer

This qualification is sometimes put before a person's forename and allows practicing engineers to move within and outside the geographical area of the European Federation of National Engineering Associations

FIDIC- Fédération Internationale Des Ingénieurs-Conseils

French for the International Federation of Consulting Engineers

FiT- Feed In Tariff

Payments to ordinary energy users for the renewable electricity they generate. This has largely been used in relation to Solar Photovoltaic power in the UK

GC Works- Government Conditions for construction

Green Star- Australian Sustainable Building Code

HSE- Health, Safety and Environment

This is an acronym used to describe roles that cover the assessment and monitoring of issues associated with human health and safety, as well as impacts on the environment. This term is more often used in manufacturing, mining, or construction arenas

HVAC- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning

ICE- Institute of Civil Engineers

There are various grades of membership from Student to Fellow

IEMA- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment

Various levels of membership and qualification available to professionals working in the environmental or sustainability sector

ISO 14001

A quality standard specifically for Environmental Management Systems. Other related ISO accreditations include ISO 26000 for social responsibility and ISO 31000 for risk management

JCT- Joint Contracts Tribunal

LCA- Life Cycle Analysis

This refers to a technique to assess the environmental impacts associated with all the stages of a product's life cycle from raw material through use to end-of-life

LCC- Low Carbon Consultant

Low Carbon Consultants are a body of professionals, through the CIBSE who are qualified to minimise carbon emissions and general energy use in design and operation from new and existing buildings

LEED- American and various other countries' sustainable building code

LOTUS- Singaporean sustainable building code

M&E- Mechanical & Electrical

Master Degree- Usually a 1 year (or 2 year part-time) course encompassing both taught and self-directed learning elements and requiring an undergraduate degree qualification (usually BA/BSc) before completion. MSc- Master of Science; MEng- Master of Engineering; MA- Master of Arts. In some Universities there is the option to complete a four-year undergraduate Masters

MBA- Master of Business Administration. Usually an intense 1 year (or 2 year part-time) course led by a Business School (e.g. The Wharton School, Oxford Said Business School), offering study in all aspects of business management, including finance, marketing, client management, etc. There has been a recent rise in MBAs with a focus on sustainability for example the 'One Planet MBA' at Exeter University or the MBA in Corporate Social Responsibility from Nottingham Business School

MCI Arb/FCI Arb- Member/Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

MCIES/FCIES- Member/Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Civil Engineering Surveyors

MCI OB/FCIOB- Member/Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Builders

MEP- Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing

MICE/FICE- Member/Fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers

MIET- Member of Institute of Engineering and Technology

MRICS/FRICS- Member/Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors – for Building, General Practice and Quantity Surveyors

NEC- New Engineering Contract

PE- Professional Engineer (Chartered Engineer – often American)

PhD- Doctor of Philosophy; it is a qualification accredited to an individual who has completed 3-4 years of self-directed research. More technical doctorates may have the title 'EngD'

QP- Qualified Professional (Singapore specialist engineer)

RHI- Renewable Heat Incentive

Payments to energy users for the generation of heat from renewable energy sources

RIBA- Chartered member of Royal Institute of British Architects; a typical architect CV will usually state which stages of a project they have worked on e.g. RIBA Stage A – H (A is Project Appraisal through to H which is Project Tender)