Expert witness accreditation training
Meet world leading standards – attract new business
Expert witness accreditation training

This high level and practical course will equip you with the detailed knowledge and skills you need to work confidently as an expert witness and to apply for listing on the RICS International Register of Accredited Expert Witnesses.

Built Environment professionals are often called upon to act as expert witnesses in court or arbitration proceedings. They may need to give evidence either as a written report or by way of oral evidence – frequently subject to aggressive cross examination. In some jurisdictions, experts may be appointed as joint experts or advisors to the courts; or may be required to participate in “hot-tubbing”, where both parties’ experts are questioned by the judge concurrently; or to manage the preliminary phase of a dispute.

Places are limited on this specialist new course. Book today!
The standard of expert evidence varies considerably, and even highly qualified professionals will benefit from developing a full understanding of the pressures, expectations and legal and ethical duties of an expert witness to the instructing party, the other side and most importantly, to the courts.

The RICS Expert Witness Accreditation Service (EWAS) focuses solely on the built environment and is currently the only accreditation of its kind to provide comprehensive quality assurance and regular reassessment.

Becoming a RICS Accredited Expert Witness is a guarantee that you have been trained and assessed to the highest standard to fulfil the expert witness role. The service also actively promotes all accredited professionals through the RICS website surveyor listings and through the free DRS referral service to instructing parties.

The importance of this course is underlined by the groundbreaking Supreme Court decision in the case of Jones v. Kaney (March 2011), which made it possible to sue any expert witness in negligence. That change to the law has made it critical that all professional persons who act as expert witnesses apply best practice in the role.

**Rigorous training**

Introducing EWAS has meant that RICS members and other professionals can undergo rigorous training and assessment to our world leading standards. All accredited candidates can be confident they meet the criteria demanded of expert witnesses and will be monitored to ensure consistent quality.

The training will be delivered by Legal Experience Training.

**Attract business from instructing parties**

RICS accreditation is seen as the leading qualification in its field. All those that become RICS Accredited Expert Witnesses will be listed on the RICS website in the comprehensive ‘Find a Surveyor’ section.
Meet world leading standards – attract new business

Course content

Module 1: Expert evidence: law and practice
To fulfil their roles and responsibilities to clients and the court, expert witnesses must have an understanding of the litigation process. They must also be aware of the legislation, regulations, rules and guidance applicable to their expert witness work.

- Understanding the litigation process and the roles and responsibilities of witnesses
- Evaluating the principles governing the admissibility, credibility and weight of evidence
- Analysing the roles of expert, professional, shadow expert, court appointed expert witnesses or expert advisors
- Understanding the Practice Directions and the RICS Surveyors acting as an Expert Witness Practice Statement and Guidance
- Considering the key stages in the litigation process and cost management
- Understanding disclosure, privilege, confidentiality, bias, and sanctions against experts
- Practical case studies will be used to enhance learning and understanding.

Module 2: Advanced report writing
Expert witness reports must be written without bias and demonstrate an analysis of the evidence relied on to support the expert opinion. This module provides clear guidance on the structure, content and style of expert reports.

- Identifying how to write a clear concise and accessible report
- Dealing with strengths and weaknesses in the facts, assumptions and opinion
- Analysis of the structure, content and style of an expert report
- Considering how to set out a well-reasoned and objective opinion
- Using objective competency criteria to comment and critique expert report writing
- Consideration of relevant rules in the RICS Practice Direction and Guidance in expert reports
- Getting the formalities right; statements of truth, compliance and conflict.

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Module 3: Expert witness meetings

This module is based on a detailed rolling case study. Delegates will role play one of the expert witnesses and will be asked to carry out an expert witness meeting with another expert.

• Evaluating how to be compliant with the RICS Guidance during the meeting
• Understanding the roles, responsibilities and duties of the expert witness at the meeting
• Handling instructions from solicitors and working from the statements of the case
• Using the case preparation model to identify the issues, facts and opinions for discussion
• Preparing and agreeing an agenda
• Using the topic box method to structure the meeting
• Understanding the legal distinction between privileged and non-privileged information
• Analysing the most effective methods for working towards and drafting the Joint Statement
• Practical role play and feedback on the meeting.

Module 4: Court skills

Expert witnesses called to give evidence face challenges to their reasoning and opinions under cross-examination. In this module experts will gain experience in giving evidence and through role play, learn how to handle cross examination tactics with confidence.

• Understanding the court process, procedure and practice
• Effective expert witness preparation before a hearing
• Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses in the evidence and dealing with questions
• Dealing with cross-examination with confidence, credibility and clarity
• Do’s and don’ts for witnesses
• Practical mock cross examination role play with feedback
• Developing a toolkit for giving effective evidence
• Hot tubbing and what this means for the expert in court.

0131 240 0832  drsscotland@rics.org
rics.org/expertwitnesstraining
Prices
Module 1, 2, 3, 4
Members: £350 + VAT per module
Non-members: £395 + VAT per module

Assessment for module 1 & 2 (optional)*
Members: £120 + VAT
Non-members: £145 + VAT

Assessment for module 4 (optional)*
Members: £250 + VAT
Non-members: £275 + VAT

*Please note: The assessments are only applicable to those that wish to join the expert witness accreditation service. The course costs for individual modules do not include assessment.

Course dates
Module 1: 2 November 2015
Module 2: 3 November 2015
Module 3: 9 November 2015
Module 4: 10 November 2015

Module 1 Assessment: 3 November 2015
Module 2 Assessment: 9 November 2015
Module 4 Assessment: 30 November 2015

RICS International Register of Accredited Expert Witnesses
To apply for listing on the RICS International Register of Accredited Expert Witnesses, applicants will also need to undertake the RICS Online Ethics test and a telephone interview.*

Members: £300 + VAT
Non-members: £350 + VAT

* RICS reserve the right to request a face-to-face Interview.

Your training will be delivered by Legal Experience Training

Speakers include

Penny Harper
Solicitor and Director
Legal Experience Training

Mark James
Barrister
Temple Garden Chambers
**BOOKING FORM**

**Expert Witness Training**
**Edinburgh 2015**

**To book**

Please complete this booking form and return with your payment or credit/debit card details to:

RICS Dispute Resolution Service in Scotland, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 4AD.

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**Delegate information**

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**Special dietary requirements:**

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**Method of payment**

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| Valid from: |  |
| Expiry date: |  |

Cardholder’s signature:

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**For further information contact**

RICS Dispute Resolution Service in Scotland
t: 0131 240 0832
e: drsscotland@rics.org

**RICS Terms and Conditions:**

- Payment is required with the booking form. No places can be reserved without payment.
- Cancellations must be made in writing and will be subject to a 10% administration charge, but no refunds can be made for cancellations notified within 21 days of the event.
- Substitute delegates will be accepted at any time.
- Payments from overseas may only be made in £ sterling (GBP), by International Monetary Order, by credit card (subject to a 3% charge) or by cheque drawn upon a UK bank.
- RICS is not liable for bank charges or any other costs incurred by delegates in attending the event.
- RICS accepts no responsibility for the views or opinions as expressed by the tutors or any other persons at the event.
- RICS reserves the right to refuse entry to delegates if it chooses.
- RICS reserves the right to change the venue and/or speakers at any time and without prior notice.
- RICS also reserves the right in its absolute discretion to cancel the event.

Full terms and conditions can be found at www.rics.org/uk/footer/terms-and-conditions-of-sale/
Confidence through professional standards

RICS promotes and enforces the highest professional qualifications and standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our name promises the consistent delivery of standards – bringing confidence to the markets we serve.

We accredit 118,000 professionals and any individual or firm registered with RICS is subject to our quality assurance. Their expertise covers property valuation and management; the costing and leadership of construction projects; the development of infrastructure; and the management of natural resources, such as mining, farms and woodland. From environmental assessments and building controls to negotiating land rights in an emerging economy; if our members are involved the same professional standards and ethics apply.

We believe that standards underpin effective markets. With up to seventy per cent of the world’s wealth bound up in land and real estate, our sector is vital to economic development, helping to underpin stable, sustainable investment and growth around the globe.

With offices covering the major political and financial centres of the world, our market presence means we are ideally placed to influence policy and embed standards at a national level. We also work at a cross-governmental level, delivering a single, international standard that will support a safe and vibrant marketplace in land, real estate, construction and infrastructure, for the benefit of all.

We are proud of our reputation and we guard it fiercely, so clients who work with an RICS professional can have confidence in the quality and ethics of the services they receive.