

COURSE GUIDE

External Wall System Assessment  
Training Programme  
**Course Guide**



# Welcome

Welcome to the External Wall System Assessment Training Programme - England and Wales. This training course provides all of the content you will need to pass the ABBE Level 6 Award in External Wall System Assessment - an Ofqual registered qualification.

This guide contains information about the training programme's policies, course materials, assessments and how to get support from RICS during your learning journey.

## First steps

1. Before you begin the course, familiarise yourself with this Course Guide and the course area.
2. Next, you should read and confirm you are aware of the Policies and Procedures available in the **Important Documents - Policies and Procedures** section of the course. They include:

### **Assessment 1 Specific Documents**

- Assessment 1 - ABBE Online Examination System User Guide
- ABBE Level 6 EWS Qualification Specification

### **RICS Policies**

- RICS Adverse Effect Policy
- RICS Appeals Policy
- RICS Assessment Anti-Plagiarism Policy
- RICS Assessment Policy
- RICS Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- RICS Malpractice and Maladministration Policy
- RICS Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy
- RICS Conflicts of interest Policy

3. **You will only be able to unlock Unit 1 after all Policies and Procedures documents have been read and marked as completed.**
4. Bookmark the course page on your Internet browser for easy access in the future and disable any pop-up blockers.

## Course description

The External Wall System Assessment (EWS) Training Programme is designed to equip professionals with the skills and knowledge required to carry out EWS assessments (FRAEWs) for non-HRB buildings under 18 metres/under 7-storeys including producing reports and signing EWS1 forms for Option A and Option B in non-HRB buildings with low or medium risk only, in accordance with PAS 9980. It also covers pre- and post-inspection activities, such as setting effective terms of engagement for this work and making an assessment in relation to other fire risk factors.

This programme has been designed for AssocRICS, MRICS and FRICS surveyors who work in the UK and are regulated by RICS. The programme has been extended to specific membership grades from CABE, IFE, CIOB and CIAT.

## About this course

This version of the course contains legislation and regulation relevant to England and Wales.

## Course structure

This programme covers the following key competency areas:

### Unit 1 - Pre-Inspection

- The Background to Fire Safety and EWS1 Forms
- The Legal and Regulatory Framework Affecting Fire Safety and EWS Assessments
- Pre-inspection Activities

### Unit 2 - Inspection

- Sourcing Data, Establishing Requirements and Completing the Inspection Processes
- Construction Technology

### Unit 3 - Post-Inspection

- Additional Fire Safety Factors
- Completing an FRAEW and the EWS1 Form

## Progressing through the course

Each unit builds on what has come before and you will need to complete one unit before progressing onto the next.

The recorded webinars provide you access to the most common questions answered by industry experts.

## Enrolment period

You are enrolled in this course for **88 days**. You must complete the course and assessment within that time, so please plan your study accordingly.

The self-study parts of the course should take around 30 hours of study in total, although this will vary based on your prior knowledge and learning style.

The total accredited **CPD hours** and assessment is **40 hours**. It is recommended that you study for at least 5 hours a week from the start of your enrollment.

The course is designed to be flexible around your existing commitments. The schedule allows 3 months to complete units 1-3; 1 month to complete the online assessment 1, and a further 1 month to complete and submit your assessment 2 case study for marking. Each unit takes approximately **10 hours** to complete and includes eLearning, reading, and a quiz.

## Programme materials

You will have access to the following programme materials:

### eLearning

Interactive eLearning modules present information in bite-sized chunks alongside quizzes and activities. Your progress will be saved automatically as you work through the content.

### Reading Materials

Links to reading materials referenced in the eLearning are provided separately. They fall into two categories:

**Essential Reading** is reading you must complete as part of your course. This reading forms part of the learning outcomes and you may be assessed on its content.

**Supplementary Resources** are links and resources mentioned in the eLearning, provided for your convenience. There is no necessity to read these as part of your course, although they may be useful reference material for completing EWS assessments.

### Webinars & FAQs

Recorded webinars facilitated by industry experts and our frequent asked questions document covering common questions will provide you additional support.

### Dedicated Inbox

You can contact us through the [ewstraining@rics.org](mailto:ewstraining@rics.org) dedicated in box for any queries related to this qualification.

# Taking the final assessment

Once you have completed all course activities you will be able to access the assessment block on the course page.

There are two parts to the assessments in this programme:

## Assessment 1

A **multiple-choice knowledge-based** test taken through Pearson Vue. Each question will be a short statement or paragraph with four answers to choose from.

This test is taken through Pearson Vue via their proctored online testing platform.

More details on Assessment 1's rules and procedures can be found in the **Assessment 1 - ABBE Online Examination System User Guide**, which is available in the **Important Documents - Policies & Procedures** section of your course area.

**Tip:** As you go through this course, pay careful attention to the assessment criteria highlighted in the course material - the final assessments will test knowledge for each of these.

## Assessment 2

A **written assessment**, submitted through the RICS Online Academy that will be marked by the programme faculty.

This assessment consists of a case study-based assignment where you will be provided with a lifelike scenario of a building where you will be asked to write a EWS report and complete a EWS1 form. There is no additional preparation needed and you will not be asked about your own work or experience.

You need to pass both assessments in order to gain the final qualification. If you should fail one of the assessments, you will be allowed a single resit. For this reason, you should make sure you are ready for your assessment before attempting it.

## Resits

The additional cost for each resit is £85 + VAT. You won't be asked to pay for any fees until you have reached the assessment stage after the completion of all training modules.