

# Expert Witness Certificate – Australia



TRAINING





This 12-week blended learning programme is designed to give you a sound knowledge of the law and best practice.

This practical course will ensure you develop the core competencies, in line with official RICS standards and information, needed to be an effective expert witness.

### A recognised benchmark of quality

On successful completion of the RICS Expert Witness Certificate and the accreditation competencies assessment interviews, candidates with suitable experience can apply for accreditation.

RICS Accredited Expert Witness status is recognised in the market as an important benchmark of quality, which assists accredited expert witnesses in attracting private appointments by solicitors, clients and professional representative firms.



# Who should attend?

This course is designed for all professionals working within the built environment, from surveyors to engineers, who want to gain the theoretical knowledge and practical competencies required to act as an expert witness.

# What key competencies will I develop?



Managing the appointment



Managing the post-appointment process



Constructing a comprehensive expert report



Discussions between experts



Delivering expert evidence in court

# Course overview

RICS' Expert Witness Certificate is:

- founded on RICS standards and information
- practical and focuses on the core competencies needed by expert witnesses
- delivered by leading surveyors and lawyers
- adapted specifically for the region.

The course works systematically through the published RICS standards and information and related learning materials through webinars led by experienced surveyors, lawyers and expert witnesses. You will be guided by a mentor who will help you acquire the competencies you need.

This course also includes online intense practical workshops where you will work with leading industry experts and barristers to finesse your skills.



# Calendar

	Self study: topics following RICS' <i>Surveyors acting as expert witnesses</i>	Webinars and workshops	Mentoring	Practical work and tests
Week 1	<b>Pre-reading</b>  The RICS professional standards and practice information; civil and common law; the courts and tribunals; the role of alternative dispute resolution (ADR).			
Week 2	<b>Competency A: Managing the appointment</b>  Your duties to the tribunal; receiving instructions; instructions from a prospective client with no legal representation; responsibility for expert witnesses' fees; contingency and conditional fees; understanding conflicts of interest and where you cannot act; immunity of expert witnesses; liability in negligence and elsewhere; managing a dual role of expert and advocate.	<b>Webinar led by an industry expert</b>  Managing the appointment (part 1)	Mentor available to give guidance	
Week 3		<b>Webinar led by an industry expert</b>  Managing the appointment (part 2)		
Week 4	<b>Competency B: Managing the post-appointment process</b>		Mentor available to give guidance	<b>Online theory test</b>
Week 5	Dealing with documents; discovery and disclosure; evidence of fact and expert (opinion) evidence; admissibility and weight; privilege; the history and role of expert advice.	<b>Webinar led by a senior lawyer</b>  Managing the post-appointment process		
Week 6	<b>Competency C: Constructing a comprehensive expert report</b>  The structure and scope of the content of the report; your continuing duty to the tribunal; legal requirements; RICS Statement of Truth and declaration; amending a report; techniques for writing a comprehensive and effective report.		Develop your report proposal in discussion with your mentor	<b>Online theory test</b>
Week 7			Mentor available to give guidance	Start writing your report
Week 8		<b>Practical workshop delivered by an industry expert</b>  Constructing a comprehensive expert report		Finesse your report during the workshop

	Self study: topics following RICS' <i>Surveyors acting as expert witnesses</i>	Webinars and workshops	Mentoring	Practical work and tests
Week 9	<b>Competency D: Discussions between experts</b>  History and development of expert witness meetings; court-ordered meetings; expert-initiated meetings; your duty throughout; preparation; RICS guidance and practical advice on how to act prior to and during the meeting; court directions; writing a joint statement; declarations; acting as a single joint expert.		Mentor available to give guidance	<b>Written theory test</b>  Finalise your report
Week 10		<b>Webinar led by a senior surveyor</b>  Discussions between expert		<b>Submit report</b>
Week 11	<b>Competency E: Delivering expert evidence in court</b>  The adversarial system; evidence in chief and cross-examination; what a court looks like; the court's dramatis personae; taking the oath or affirmation; staying within your field of expertise; preparing for giving evidence; how to conduct yourself and make a good impression; concurrent evidence or 'hot tubbing'; advising advocates.		Mentor available to give guidance	<b>Written theory test</b>
Week 12		<b>Practical workshop delivered by a senior lawyer</b>  Delivering effective expert evidence in court		Participate in practical cross-examination exercise  <b>Written theory test</b>

## Competency assessment

In addition to the online theory assessment each competency is assessed to ensure candidates not only understand the academic learning but are competent to act as an expert witness.

The submitted report, cross-examination exercise and additional online interview assesses:

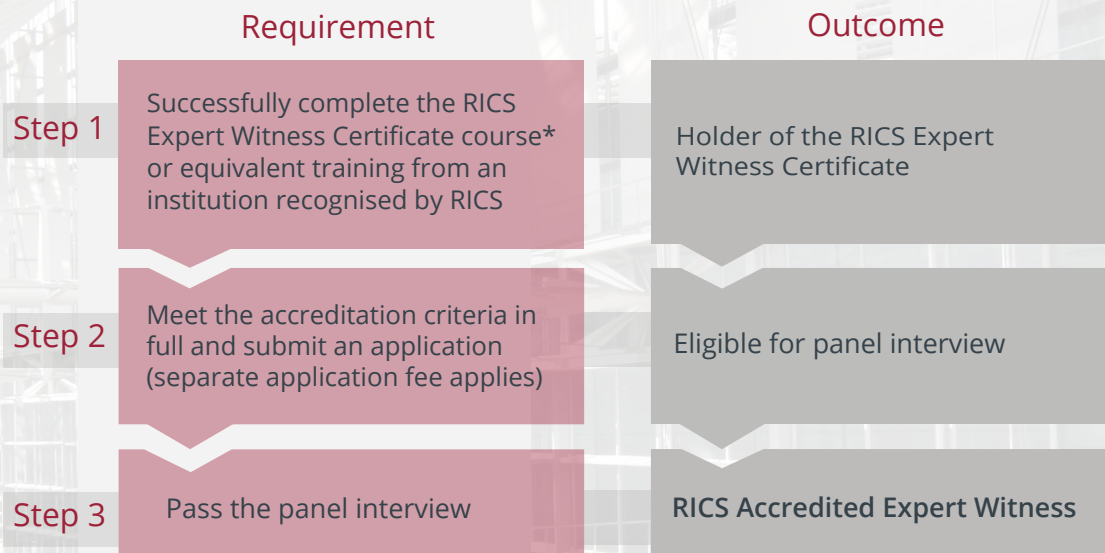
- managing the appointment
- managing the post-appointment process
- discussions between experts.

## What do you receive after successfully completing the course?

- ✓ Become a **Holder of the RICS Expert Witness Certificate**, which can be added to your CV and professional credentials.
- ✓ Gain access to RICS expert witness CPD and related events.

## Pathway to RICS Accredited Expert Witness status

The RICS Expert Witness Certificate is not a status in itself. It is, however, an important step towards becoming an **RICS Accredited Expert Witness**. Below is a breakdown of the process:



\*including report writing, cross-examination and course interview assessment.

## Benefits of becoming an RICS Accredited Expert Witness

Once accredited, you can:

- ✓ use the title 'RICS Accredited Expert Witness'
- ✓ display the RICS Accredited Expert Witness logo demonstrating expertise and competence in the expert witness role
- ✓ be listed on the RICS website as an Accredited Expert Witness
- ✓ join the President's Panel of Dispute Resolvers and Expert Witnesses and be considered for nominations by RICS.



## Why choose RICS as your training provider?

RICS Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) training courses ensure that you are well equipped to respond to the changing demands of the market by enhancing your skills as a dispute resolution professional and expert witness.

With over 45 years providing support and guidance to the built environment sector, we are confident that we can support you with our immense pool of industry knowledge and experience.

## Pricing

Pricing for the RICS Expert Witness Certificate:

- Member \$3,900 + GST
- Non-member \$4,750 + GST.

10% discount if three or more delegates from the same organisation book on the course.

## How to enrol

If you would like to enrol on this course, please visit [rics.org/expertwitnesscertificate](https://rics.org/expertwitnesscertificate)

For further information please get in touch at [drseducation@rics.org](mailto:drseducation@rics.org) and our dedicated DRS team will be happy to assist you.



## Delivering confidence

We are RICS. As a member-led chartered professional body working in the public interest, we uphold the highest technical and ethical standards.

We inspire professionalism, advance knowledge and support our members across global markets to make an effective contribution for the benefit of society. We independently regulate our members in the management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others supports their professional practice and pioneers a natural and built environment that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive for all.

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[rics.org](https://rics.org)