



Gain status in the market

RICS Expert Witness
Certificate

rics.org/drs

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

Practically orientated, this course will ensure you develop the core competencies in line with the official RICS Professional Guidance, needed to be an effective expert witness.

A recognised benchmark of quality

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

Who should attend?

This course is suitable 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 effective expert evidence in court

Course overview

The RICS Expert Witness Certificate:

- is founded on the RICS Professional Guidance
- is practically orientated and focuses on the core competencies needed by expert witnesses
- is delivered by leading surveyors and lawyers
- is adapted specifically for the region

The course works systematically through the published RICS Professional Guidance 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 intense practical workshops where you will work with leading industry experts and barristers to finesse your skills.

Calendar

	Self-study: topics following the RICS Expert Witness Guidance Note	Webinars and Workshop sessions	Mentoring	Practical work and tests
	Pre-reading - Common and statutory law; the UK courts and tribunals; the role of ADR.			
Week 1	Competency A: Managing the appointment 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; history and role of the expert witness; acting as a single joint expert.			
Week 2		Online workshop divided into two parts providing a introduction to the programme and a session on managing the appointment (your duties to the tribunal and understanding the law)		
Week 3	Understanding the law: Dealing with documents; discovery and disclosure; evidence of fact and expert (opinion) evidence; the development of expert evidence: admissibility and weight; privilege.			Online theory assessment
Week 4	Competency B: Managing the post-appointment process Practical steps following appointment: What documents to consider; identifying missing documents; specific disclosure; inspection of original documents;	Webinar led by an industry expert: Managing the post-appointment process		
Week 5	assisting the legal team in appointing the correct 'team'; preparation and status of preliminary reports; initial meetings with the legal team; assistance in the preparation of the pleadings; preparing cost estimates under Precedent H; further consideration of fees; setting up your job files and updating them; ongoing checks for conflicts of interest etc.; internal teams working on expert appointments			Online theory assessment

	Self-study: topics following the RICS Expert Witness Guidance Note	Webinars and Workshop sessions	Mentoring	Practical work and tests
Week 6	Competency C: Constructing a comprehensive expert report 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	Practical workshop delivered in two parts and delivered by a senior surveyor: Constructing a comprehensive expert report	Develop your report proposal in discussion with your mentor	Start writing your report
Week 7				Finesse your report during the workshop
Week 8				Online theory assessment
Week 9	Competency D: Discussions between experts 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	Webinar led by a senior surveyor: Discussions between experts		Finalise your report
Week 10				Online theory assessment SUBMIT REPORT
Week 11	Competency E: Delivering effective expert evidence in court			
Week 12	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	Practical workshop delivered by a senior lawyer: Delivering effective expert evidence in court		Participate in practical cross-examination exercise Online theory assessment

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 and Expert Witness. This is assessed by way of the submitted report and cross examination exercise and an additional online interview which would assess:

- Managing clearly the expectations of those who appoint you
- Assembling accurately the materials you need to function
- Discussions between experts

Pricing

For the RICS Expert Witness Certificate: Member **£2,100 + VAT**. Non-member **£2395 +VAT**.

10% discount if 3 or more delegates from the same organisation book on the course

What do you receive after completing the course?

	RICS Expert Witness Certificate	RICS Accredited Expert Witness
Undertake study programme, webinars and participation at workshops in addition to successful completion five written theory tests	✓	✓
Successfully complete five competencies (including report writing task, cross examination and an hour interview on competences A, B & D), complete form and online ethics test.	✓	✓
Satisfy the RICS Accredited Expert Witness criteria, complete form with references etc and undertake RICS ethics test & panel interview		✓

On successful completion of the **RICS Expert Witness Certificate** you are entitled to participate in RICS Expert Witness CPD and other events.

Candidates who have complete the above and can demonstrate the necessary practical experience and meet the other requirements of the **RICS Accredited Expert Witness** criteria, can consider making an application to become an **RICS Accredited Expert Witness**. Candidates will then have to undertake the normal **RICS President's Panel** assessment process of an application, interview - including an examination of sample expert witness reports and referees' reports, ethics exam etc. Please note: there is a separate charge for this interview assessment process.

Please read on for more information on the **RICS President's Panel**.

Benefits of Accreditation and membership of the RICS President's Panel

RICS Accredited Expert Witnesses will be entitled to:

- use the appellation "RICS Accredited Expert Witness"
- display the relevant RICS Accredited Expert Witness logos and badging when attracting private appointments by solicitors, clients and professional representative firms
- be listed on the RICS website as an RICS Accredited Expert Witness
- be considered for nomination as an RICS Accredited Expert Witness by RICS when it is approached to make such nominations.

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 40 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.

How to enrol

If you would like to enrol on this course, please visit rics.org/drs

For further information please get in touch and our dedicated training team will be happy to assist you.
e drstraining@rics.org t 02476 868 584

Delivering confidence

We are RICS. Everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environments. Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.

Americas

Latin America

ricsamericalatina@rics.org

North America

ricsamericas@rics.org

Asia Pacific

Australasia

australasia@rics.org

Greater China (Hong Kong)

ricshk@rics.org

Greater China (Shanghai)

ricschina@rics.org

Japan

ricsjapan@rics.org

South Asia

ricsindia@rics.org

Southeast Asia

sea@rics.org

EMEA

Africa

ricsafrica@rics.org

Europe

ricseurope@rics.org

Ireland

ricsireland@rics.org

Middle East

ricsmiddleeast@rics.org

United Kingdom RICS HQ

contactrics@rics.org



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

JUNE2020/DA/1202/GLOBAL