



Gain status in the market RICS Expert Witness Certificate – South Africa

DRS



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 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 accreditation competencies assessment interviews, candidates with suitable experience can apply for accreditation.



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



Discussion between experts



Delivering expert evidence in court

Course overview

RICS Expert Witness Certificate is:

- founded on RICS professional guidance
- 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 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 two online intense practical workshops where you will work with leading industry experts and a barrister to finesse your skills.

Calendar

	Self study: topics following the RICS Expert Witness guidance note	Webinars and face-to-face sessions	Mentoring	Practical work and tests
Week 1	Pre-reading The RICS professional statements and guidance notes; civil and common law; the courts and tribunals; and the role of ADR.			
Week 2	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.		Mentor available to give guidance	
Week 3		Webinar led by an industry expert Managing the appointment		
Week 4	Competency B: Managing the post-appointment process		Mentor available to give guidance	Online theory test
Week 5	Deadling with documents; discovery and disclosure; evidence of fact and expert (opinion) evidence; admissibility and weight; privilege; the history and role of expert advice.	Webinar led by a senior lawyer Managing the post-appointment process		
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.		Develop your report proposal in discussion with your mentor	Online theory test
Week 7			Mentor available to give guidance	Start writing your report
Week 8		Practical workshop delivered by an industry expert Constructing a comprehensive expert report		Finesse your report during the workshop

	Self study: topics following the RICS Expert Witness guidance note	Webinars and face-to-face sessions	Mentoring	Practical work and tests
Week 9	Competency D: Discussions between experts History and development of expert witness meetings; court ordered meetings; expert initiated meetings;		Mentor available to give guidance	Written theory test Finalise your report
Week 10	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.	Webinar led by a senior surveyor Discussions between experts		Submit report
Week 11	Competency E: Delivering expert evidence in court 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	Written theory test
Week 12		Practical workshop delivered by senior lawyer Delivering effective expert evidence in court		Participate in practical cross-examination exercise Written theory test

What do you receive after completing the course?

		Engage in self study, attend mandatory webinars and workshops, and pass the online tests	Successfully complete the five competencies*, fill out the skills form and pass the RICS ethics test	Pass the panel interview
Status	RICS Expert Witness Certificate	✓		
	RICS Registered Expert Witness	✓	✓	
	RICS Accredited Expert Witness	✓	✓	✓

* including report writing, cross examination and interview on competencies A, B and D.

RICS Registered Expert Witnesses will be listed on a Registry of Registered Expert Witnesses. They are part of the RICS Expert Witness family and are entitled to participate in RICS Expert Witness CPD and other events. Where RICS is approached by solicitors, surveyors or other parties seeking a newly qualified expert, RICS may, where appropriate, be able to effect an introduction.

Candidates who have completed the above, and who 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 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 Panel.

Benefits of Accreditation and membership of the RICS Panel

RICS Accredited Expert Witnesses will be entitled to:

- use the title 'RICS Accredited Expert Witness'
- display the relevant RICS Accredited Expert Witness logos 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, or for further information, please get in touch at drseducation@rics.org and our dedicated DRS team will be happy to assist you.

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.

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