

Requirement by the UK Home Countries Heritage Bodies for the lead professional role on their repair grant schemes to have conservation accreditation

Department for Communities Northern Ireland, Historic Environment Service (Cadw), Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland support the requirement for an applicant for their repair grants to employ a lead professional advisor with relevant specialist conservation knowledge, ability and experience.

The lead professional advisor is required to deliver a range of services relating to repair grants which are described in the grant application information. These include analysis of condition, investigations, planning and specifying the work, and inspecting and certifying the work while it is in progress and after it is completed.

To be recognised as eligible to be the lead professional advisor on their repair grants an individual needs to satisfy the UK Home Countries Heritage Bodies that:

- i. Their professional training and competences will enable the delivery of the services required of the lead professional in their grant schemes. &
- ii. Their conservation accreditation scheme meets the following criteria:
 - Accreditation of individuals rather than companies or practices
 - Schemes should be open to all suitably qualified and experienced members of the relevant professional disciplines
 - Assessment of a verifiable record of work carried out demonstrating experience and competence
 - Assessment by suitably experienced, impartial assessors against agreed criteria together with reassessment on a regular basis
 - The use of the ICOMOS Guidelines for Education and Training in the Conservation of Monuments, Ensembles and Sites
 - An ethical and linked disciplinary framework to ensure that standards are observed and maintained

Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland both operate this requirement on their repair grants. Cadw will introduce the requirement from January 2018. From April 2017, the Historic Environment Division of the Northern Ireland Department for Communities will have the same requirement for proposals seeking support of £10,000 or more from its Historic Environment Fund.

Background

Conservation accreditation schemes for professionals are developed and operated by professional bodies and independent organisations. Each scheme has its own application and assessment process. Becoming accredited involves submitting evidence of an individual's experience and competence, which is assessed by suitably experienced and impartial assessors. Most schemes use the International Council on Monuments and Sites' (ICOMOS) Guidelines for Education and Training in the Conservation of Monuments, Ensembles and Sites as the basis for their assessment of candidates' experience. However, the schemes vary in their entry and re-accreditation requirements.

December 2016