

Ka Rere Te Manu

A Guide to Becoming a
Registered Landscape Architect

Tuia Pito Ora New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (NZILA)



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New Zealand Institute
of Landscape Architects

NZILA Registration Review 2026

Why the NZILA updated the
Registration Programme
& what it means moving
forward

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NZILA Registration Review Working Group

Why have we reviewed the Registration process?

The existing process has served NZILA well, but the profession has diversified significantly since its last update in 2012.

The registration programme needed to better reflect:

- Clearer and consistent support for candidates throughout the process
- The diversity of contemporary landscape architecture practice
- Cultural competency expectations
- Climate change and emerging issues

Goals

To create a registration framework that is:

- Accessible
- Relevant
- Robust
- A living document

The Journey and Key Dates

Date	Milestone
March 2024	Terms of Reference approved
April 2024	Member survey released
October 2024	Survey results presented to Board
November 2024	Reference group feedback
Feb-Sep 2025	Draft documentation developed
January 2026	Board review
July 2026	Board approval
30th August 2026	Ka Rere Te Manu - A Guide to Becoming a Registered Landscape Architect to be published

What Members Told Us

Key Themes from Member Feedback

Practice Areas

- Better recognition of diverse practice
- Urban design and masterplanning discussions
- Public sector and specialist roles

Core Competencies

- Stronger cultural competency
- Greater legislative clarity
- Sustainability and climate change

Process

- More consistent processes
- Simpler pathway
- Clearer expectations
- Reduced ambiguity

The Biggest Structural Change

A New Two-Part Registration Framework

Part A Practical Experience & Capabilities

- Demonstrate capability through project experience across selected practice areas.

Part B Core Competencies

- Demonstrate professional knowledge, judgement and readiness for registration.
- Speaker series

This is probably the most significant change - Previously there was often confusion between demonstrating project experience and demonstrating professional competency.

How the 4 Registration Pathways Work

Same Pathways - Clearer Process

Pathway	Who is it for?	Part A	Part B
Graduate	NZILA/IFLA accredited graduates	○	○
Affiliate	Related degree + significant LA experience	○	○
Established Member	Experienced LA with 10+ years practice	X	○
Reciprocity	Registered overseas IFLA members	X	○

This means all candidates are ultimately assessed against the same core professional standards, regardless of pathway.

Part A Updated Practice Areas

From “Practice Areas” to “Practical Experience & Capabilities”

To better reflect contemporary landscape architecture practice, candidates now demonstrate breadth and depth across **two selected Practice Areas**. The previous two major and one minor requirement has been removed.

Existing

New

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Landscape Design | • Design Development |
| • Contract Documentation & Administration | • Contract Documentation & Implementation |
| • Landscape Planning & Management | • Strategic Planning & Management |
| • Landscape Assessment | • Area-Based Assessment |
| | • Landscape Effects Assessment |
| • Landscape Education & Research | • Academic Practice |

Part B **Expanded Core Competencies**

From 3 Competencies to 5

The new competencies better reflect the realities and responsibilities of contemporary practice in Aotearoa - Kaupapa Māori and emerging issues were both strongly identified through member feedback as important additions.

Existing

- Professionalism & Professional Development
- Legislative Context
- Practice Management

New

- Professionalism & Professional Development
- Legislative & Legal Context
- Landscape Architecture Practice
- Kaupapa Māori
- Emerging & Contemporary Issues

Stronger Support

More Structured Candidate Support

Candidates

- Better guidance
- An NZILA study programme with workshops and checkpoints
- Clarity around assessment expectations

Mentors

- Clearer role definition
- Regular documented engagement

Formal endorsement of Part A

Speaker series

- A new speaker series focusing on Part B core competencies

A streamlined Part B assessment

Based on the above all candidates must be based in New Zealand

Understanding Part A & Part B

The Two Assessment Stages

PART A - Practical Experience & Capabilities

Purpose

- Demonstrate professional experience through project work
- Show breadth and depth across **two** selected Practice Areas
- Confirm readiness for registration-level assessment

Assessment (May)

- Workbook submission
- Mentor endorsement
- Independent professional review
- Structured Confirmation Conversation (if required)

PART B - Core Competencies

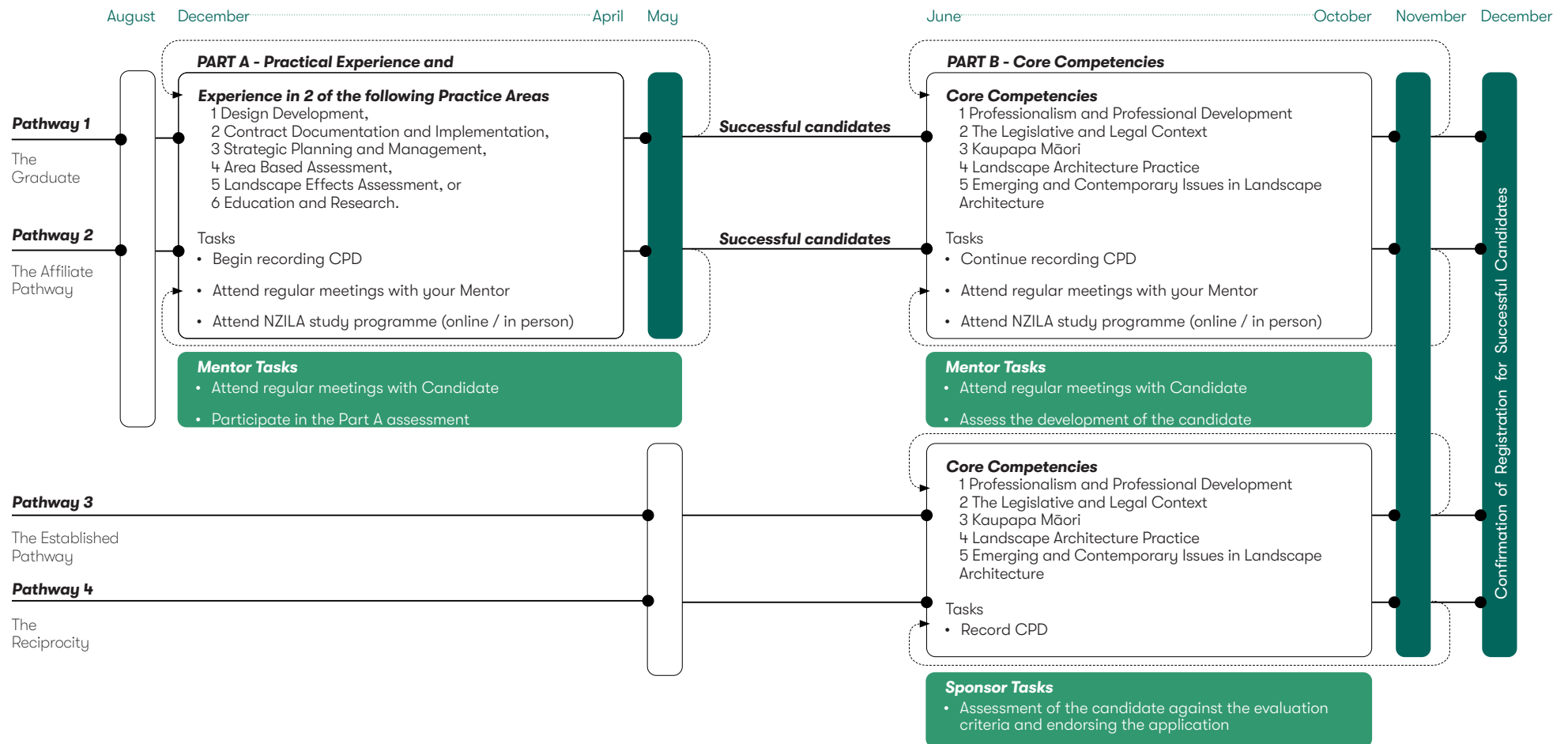
Purpose

- Demonstrate professional judgement and competency
- Establish a consistent professional standard for all candidates

Assessment (November)

- Workbook addendum or portfolio submission
- Core competency reflection
- Formal assessment interview
- Assessment panel recommendation

Key Milestones and Time-frames



What Does This Mean For Members

Benefits of the New Framework

Candidates

- Simplified documentation
- Improved workbook requirements
- Recognition of diverse career paths
- Better support for public sector and academic practitioners
- Submission and assessment available in English or Te Reo Māori

Employers

- More transparent development framework
- Stronger professional capability outcomes
- Better alignment with profession and public expectations

Assessors & Mentors

- More consistent assessment standards