

How to Become Registered Architect ?

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Abstract:- Architecture is regarded as a professional course throughout the world. One requires a professional Architect License to practice the profession in various parts of the world. Every region has their own professional regulating body for Architectural studies and practice in their region. This paper Inspects the Academic training and Experience required to obtain this Professional License in various parts of the world. This study is conducted as part of doctoral research on “Rationale of Application of Theory Inputs in Architectural Practice”. This paper is based on secondary source of data from different regulatory bodies for the profession across the world.

Keywords:- Architectural Practice, Architectural Education, Professional Exam, Professional Experience, Regulatory Councils.

I. INTRODUCTION

Architect is regarded as one of the most challenging professions in the world. The amount of work and efforts that go into acquiring the title “Architect” is enormous in any region of the world. Students of the course go through a rigorous curriculum combined with practical experience as interns for designated period under practicing architects. It is a very techno-creative profession which involves traits of various professions such as artists, engineers, managers, researchers etc. Architectural Design is the core subject of the course but is a complicated process as it is always intertwined with varied factors and outcome is always based on regional conditions of the project site such as culture, climate, affordability, construction techniques, material availability etc. The process of critical thinking for design solution involves background training and study in various subjects such as sociology, history, building construction materials and techniques, graphics, basic design, estimation and accounting, project management, software aided designing, sustainability studies etc

There are 7 continents with 195 independent sovereign nations in the world (as per United Nations). Every region has their own professional regulating body for Architectural studies and practice in their region. Everybody has a different procedure for obtaining a professional license for practice. While the core subjects remain similar across curricula of

different regions, subjects required for regional practice differ. Building codes /byelaws, legal frame work, climatic studies, sociology, economics, politics etc.. are subjected to regional variation. These variations in the procedures across the regions of the world lays several constraints for architects to in finding opportunities in different regions other than the regional borders restricting the validity of their professional license. This paper records the Academic training and experience requirements classified as per data recorded in different continents. Antarctica being a very sparsely populated continent and limited scope of education falls in the limitations of the study.

Limitation: The research is based on secondary source of data. There is variation in economic and political systems throughout the world. This influences the education system and regulatory norms for professions. Not every region has a defined/structured procedure for architectural professional license. Hence data presented in this research is based only on available standard information.

II. ACADEMIC TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS IN EUROPE

United nations geo-scheme for Europe classifies the continent into 4 subregions namely Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Western Europe, and Southern Europe. Architects council of Europe acts as a major active Architectural association that binds profession and professionals across Europe. It also connects the European architects to associations in other continents. Data represented in this section is recorded from the regulatory bodies of the constituent member countries of the mentioned association. Other Strong international Regulatory Organization is Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). It has various international chapters that guide the professional standards in different parts of the world. Architectural academic training required for licensure in Europe generally varies between 4 years to 6 years with a mandatory requirement of professional experience ranging between 1 to 3 years. Most of the countries require a mandatory qualification of both bachelor’s and master’s degree. In addition to this regulatory bodies of majority of the countries conduct a Professional exam on passing which the license or registration is confirmed. The whole process spans anywhere between 7-9 years . (figure 1-4).

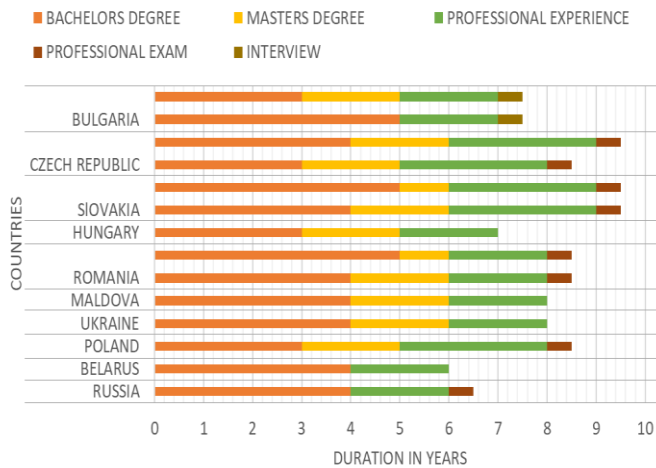


FIGURE 1: Academic Training and Experience required to become registered Architect in different countries across Eastern Europe

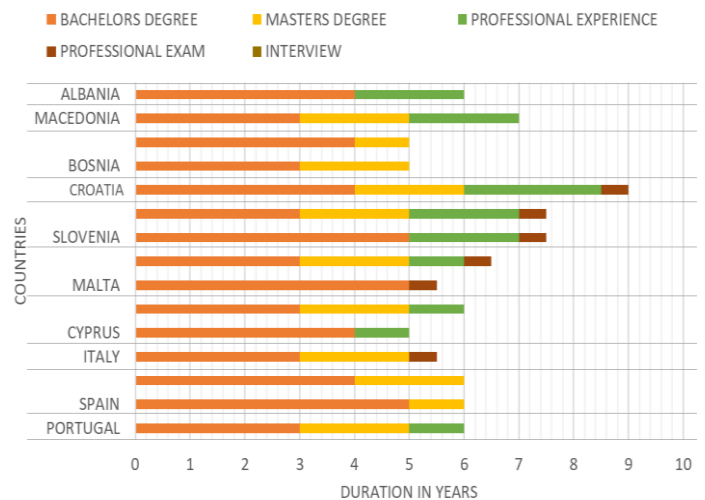


FIGURE 4: Academic Training and Experience required to become registered Architect in different countries across Southern Europe.

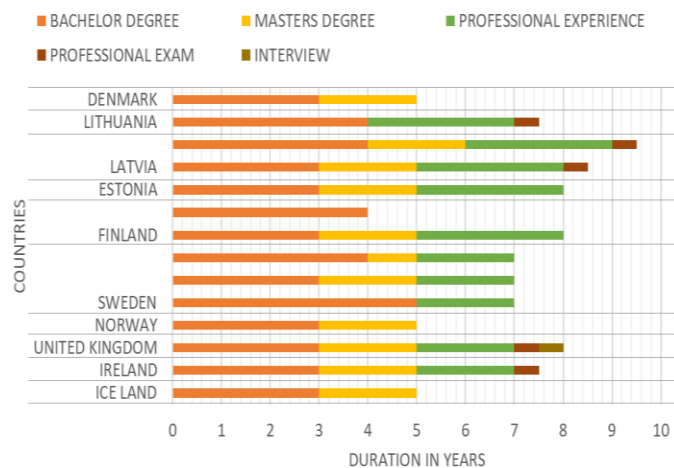


FIGURE 2: Academic Training and Experience required to become registered Architect in different countries across Northern Europe.

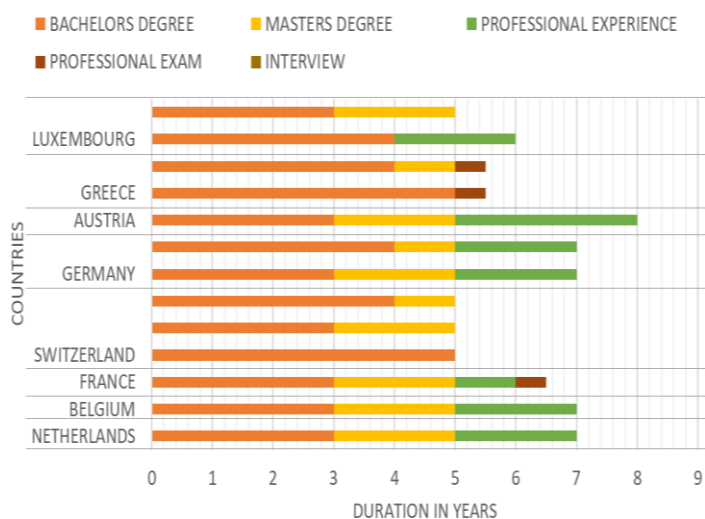


FIGURE 3 Academic Training and Experience required to become registered Architect in different countries across Western Europe.

III. ACADEMIC TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS IN ASIA

United nations geo-scheme for Asia classifies the continent into 5 subregions namely Central Asia, Southern Asia, South-Eastern Asia, Eastern Asia, Western Asia. ARCASIA- Architects Regional Council Asia is a major active Architectural organization that unites profession and professionals throughout Asia and Beyond.

Obtaining Requirements for licensure and practice in Asian countries varies spans anywhere between 5-9 years. Architectural academic training requires a mandatory bachelor's degree and master's degree for majority of the countries (Figure 5-9). Bachelor's degree can be achieved in span of 5 years in some countries and 3 years in other (figure 5-9). In About 60% of the countries a mandatory post academic professional experience and passing of a professional exam. The training period extends between 1-3 years based on the local regional regulations. Thailand regulations do not require a mandatory experience but requires passing of an exam and interview by the regulatory body. Some countries such as India, Turkey, Pakistan, Nepal etc. require only Recognized Academic training to obtain License. (Figure 5-9). Countries across eastern Asia are noted to be having a mandatory practical experience requirement as well as passing of a professional exam. Similar case is with countries across South-Eastern Asia Except for Vietnam and Lao People's Republic. (figure5&8). Countries across central Asia do not follow the system of conducting mandatory professional exam. (figure 7).

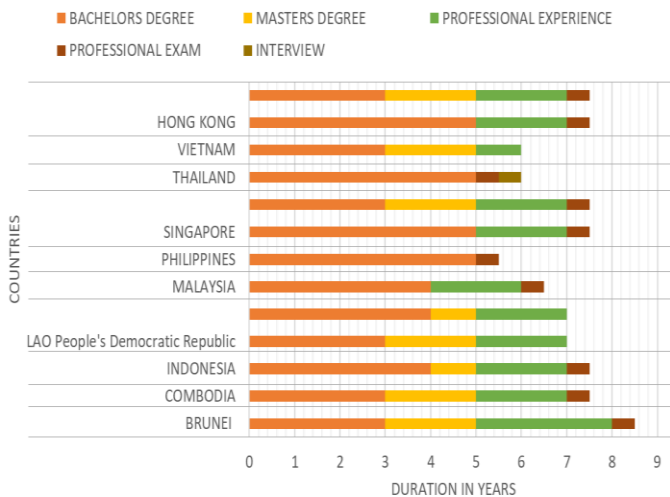


FIGURE 5: Academic Training and Experience required to become registered Architect in different countries across South-Eastern Asia.

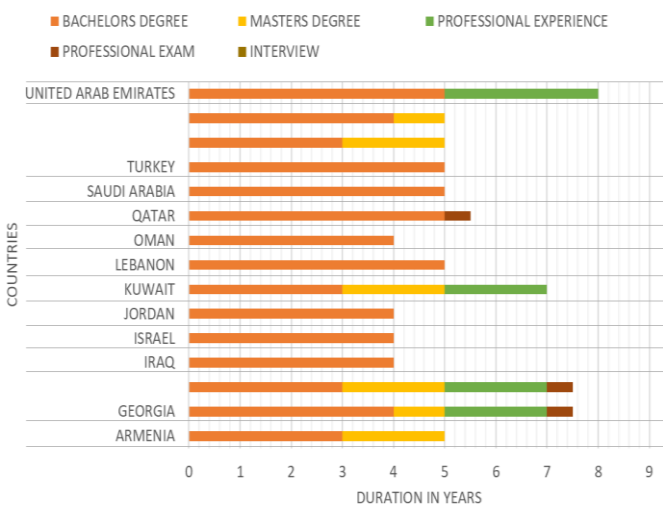


FIGURE 6 :Academic Training and Experience required to become registered Architect in different countries across Western Asia.

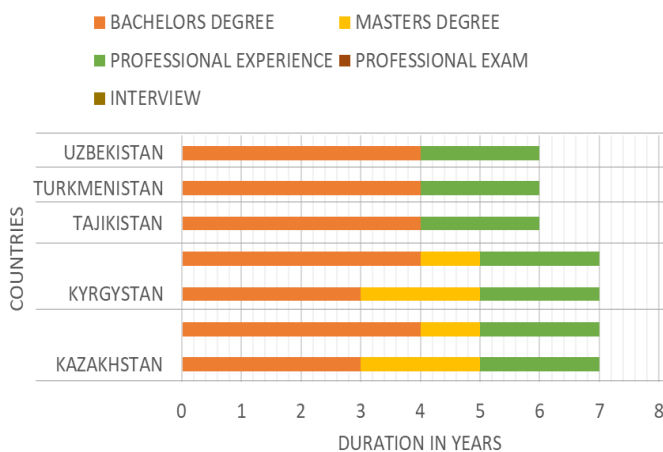


FIGURE 7 Academic Training and Experience required to become registered Architect in different countries across Central Asia.

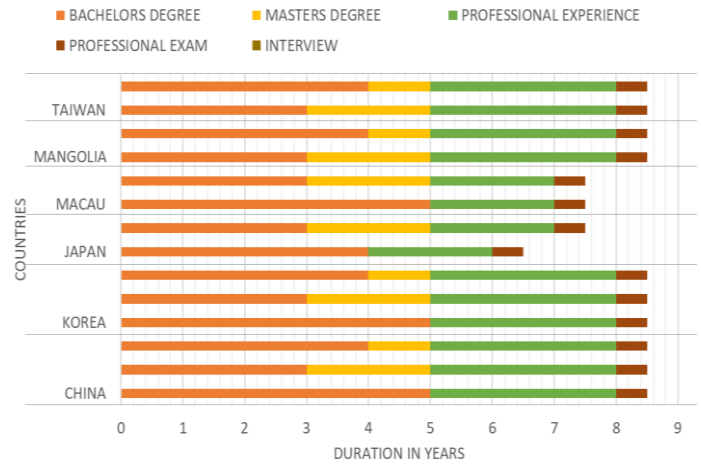


FIGURE 8 Academic Training and Experience required to become registered Architect in different countries across Eastern Asia.

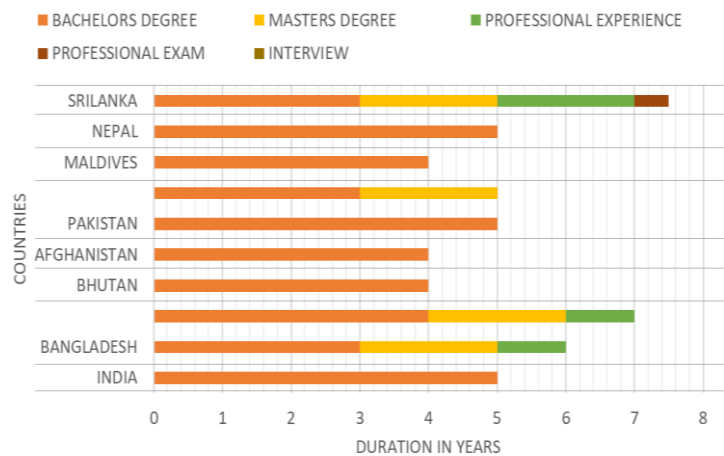


FIGURE 9 Academic Training and Experience required to become registered Architect in different countries across Southern Asia.

IV. ACADEMIC TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS IN AFRICA

Understanding the educational procedures and training requirements in Africa cannot be attributed to one organization or a council. There are many regions in Africa that require extensive advancement in the education sector. On contrary to other continental regions architectural education in Africa is limited. Having said this, African Architecture cannot be ignored, it has great potential to create strong impact on world Scenario. To make the study simple and well comprehended based on the opportunities and status of affairs across Africa, it is divided into 5 regions, namely-North Africa, South Africa, East Africa, West Africa, and Africa Centre. Time period of educational requirement varies between 5-7 years. This includes both bachelor’s degree and master’s degree. Mandatory practical experience of about 2 years needs to be recorded in all regions of Africa except for Africa centre. An architect’s accreditation exam needs to undertake and passed in all regions of Africa except for North Africa. The complete process till obtaining a licence spans over 6 to 10 years (figure 10).

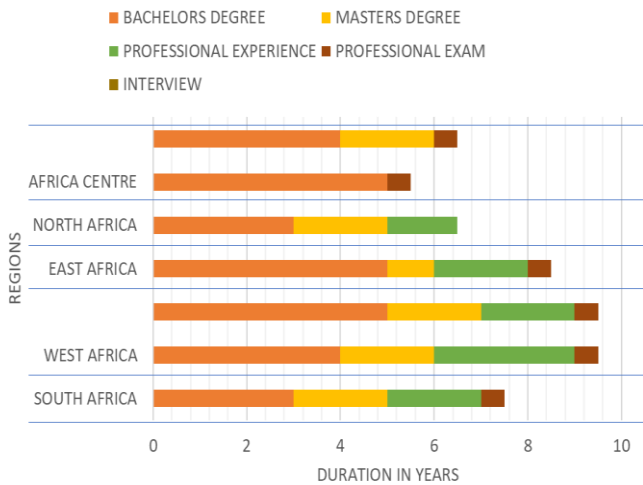


FIGURE 10:Academic Training And Experience Required To Become A Licensed Architect In Different Regions Of Africa

V. ACADEMIC TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS IN OCEANIA

United nations Geo-Scheme classifies Oceania into 4 regions Namely Australia and New Zealand Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia. Professional standards for practice and education in these regions are majorly Administered by Architects Accreditation Council of Australia. The most common pathway to registration is completion of an accredited Australian architecture qualification followed by the Architectural Practice Examination. In consultation with the State and Territory Architect Registration Boards AACA has developed several alternative pathways. Australian accredited education corresponds to a bachelor’s degree with a learning cycle equivalent to 5 years/10 semesters and a master’s degree with learning cycle of 2 years. Practice exam requires submission of experience logbook along with successful completion of an online exam and Interview.

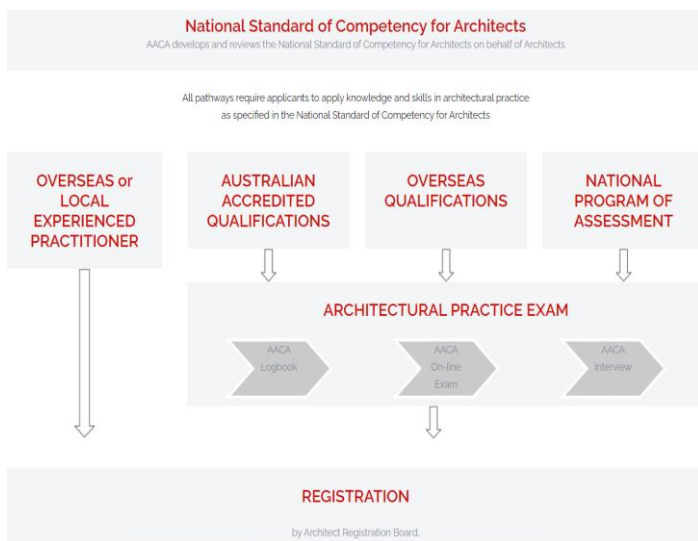


FIGURE 11: Process of registration of architects- Architects Accreditation Council of Australia. Source: Architect’s Accreditation council of Australia

VI. ACADEMIC TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS IN AMERICAN SUBCONTINENTS

According to United Nations Geo-scheme American subcontinents are divided into 4 major regions namely North America, Central America, Caribbean, south America. North American countries that have a Robust Architectural regulation are United states of America and Canada. They are looked upon as major destination for opportunities, research, and education in field of Architectural technology. Many countries such as Jamaica, Bahamas etc.. also show very interesting profiles and opportunities on keen examination. National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) and Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RIAC) are most popular councils across North America. While the other countries in this region also have established their own professional regulatory bodies and Regulations that Govern the Profession, they have mutual pacts with these organizations for regulation and validation of architectural studies in their countries. Complete process takes around 5 to 9 years. 5 years of academic training is required, which can be divided into 3 years of bachelors and 2 years of masters or 4 years of bachelors and one year of masters. Some countries like Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, Grenada offer 5-year bachelor’s degree. Regions across Central America do not require a mandatory practical experience. Some countries such as United states of America, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Canada require passing of a Architect Registration Examination. out of these Jamaica has an additional requirement, successful completion of Interview(figure12-14).

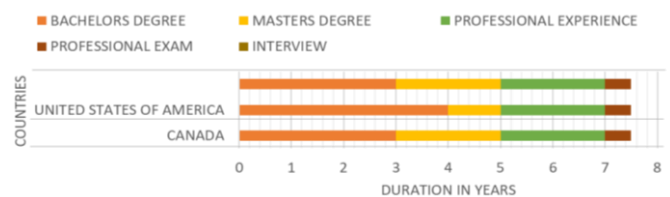


FIGURE 12 Academic Training And Experience Required To Become A Licensed Architect In Different Regions Of North America

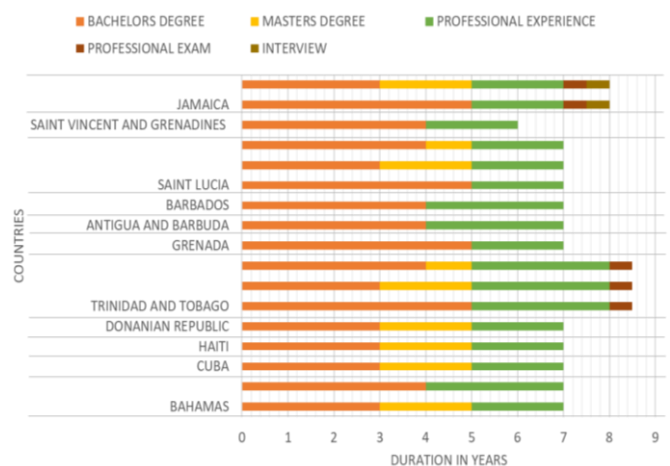


FIGURE 13 Academic Training And Experience Required To Become A Licensed Architect In Different Regions Of Caribbean

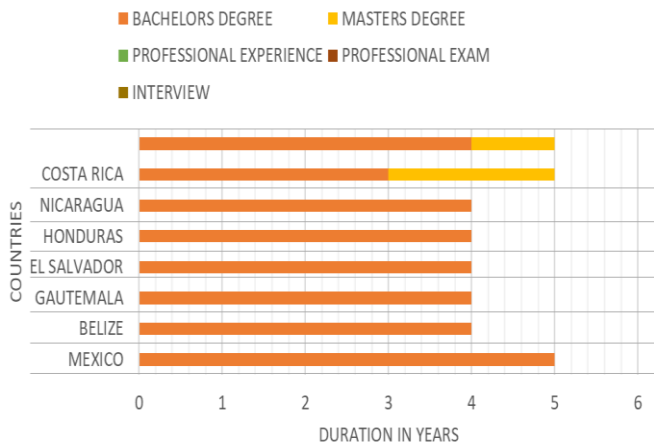


FIGURE 14 Academic Training and Experience Required To Become A Licensed Architect In Different Regions Of Central America

South American countries have their on regional regulatory councils that regulate the professional practice and education in their region. Most of these bodies are integrated with the regional educational ministries or educational councils. Research in this segment required keen observation on educational degrees and programs offered in these regions along with the government laws for professional courses as scope of finding detailed data was limited. An average academic training of 4 years is required in most of the regions. Peru, Guyana, Bolivia and Argentina offer 5-year Degrees. Guyana offers a combination of a 5-year bachelor’s degree or 3 years bachelor’s degree and 2 years master’s degree. Argentina is the only exception that requires practical experience logged in for a period of 2.5 years, while other countries do not require a mandatory post academic experience. (figure15)

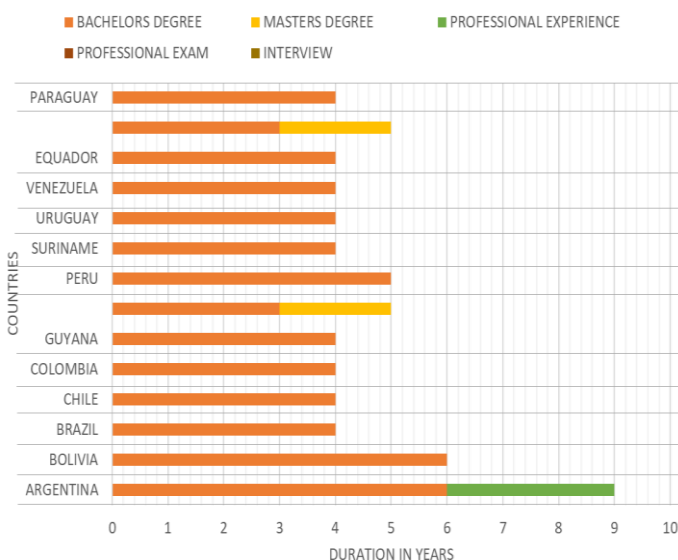


FIGURE 15 Academic Training and Experience Required To Become A Licensed Architect In Different Regions Of South America

VII. CONCLUSIONS

The time to acquire the registered title of an “Architect” ranges between 4-9 years in general across the Globe. It can also be observed that there is a drastic variation in the requirements to acquire the title in different parts of the world. Majority of Europe, Australia, North America, Caribbean, Eastern Asia, South-Eastern Asia, Central Asia, North Africa, East Africa, West Africa, and South Africa require mandatory working experience along with the educational qualifications. This process on an average is observed to take a minimum of 6-7 years and can stretch up to 9 years in some cases where qualifying a professional exam or interview is mandatory. On contrary most parts of Central America, South America, Southern Asia, Western Asia, Central Africa, few parts of southern Europe do not require any mandatory working experience prior to attaining the Architects Registration. This variation requires to be reduced and balanced across a standard international platform which can ease out the process of architectural practice across the sphere and also maintain the value.

VIII. WAY FORWARD

Architecture has strong history that guides the lifestyle of people based on regional variations. These variations determined the subjects of study in this area. In the current scenario of globalization and industrialization where technology plays a huge role in designing and construction practice. It is necessary to reduce the barriers encountered in international design and construction practice. Many Graduates opt for higher studies, opportunities in other parts of the world apart from their homeland not comprehending the variations in validity of their education and experience. An emergence of a robust World organization that can connect and bridge the differences arising due to varied procedures of different regions, considering the limitations of the developed, developing, and underdeveloped countries is strongly recommended.

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