

FAQs

Education, Experience and Examination Requirements for Membership in ARIDO

What do the changes mean to me as a new applicant?

Following is a summary of changes to ARIDO's membership requirements that will affect new applicants.

Education: A three-year diploma is acceptable by ARIDO up to January 1, 2015, after which time a bachelor's degree will be the minimum education standard. Commencing in 2017, the minimum standard will be a CIDA accredited degree.

Experience: As an Intern member you must obtain supervised work experience and participate in ARIDO's Professional Development Program.

See the attached chart for further details.

I just graduated from a two-year program in Saskatchewan. Am I eligible to join ARIDO?

No, only graduates of three-year programs in interior design are eligible to become Intern members of ARIDO. (See the attached chart for further details.)

I am currently enrolled in a three-year program and will graduate in May 2012. What must I do to become a member of ARIDO?

You can join ARIDO as an Intern member any time prior to December 31, 2019 by completing the Intern application and having your college send two original transcripts to ARIDO. Once you have joined, you must obtain supervised work experience and participate in ARIDO's Professional Development Program.

I am an ARIDO Intern member currently participating in IDEP. Should I continue?

You do not have to continue; however, ARIDO encourages you to do so as the program provides Interns with breadth of experience and highlights to employers the need to ensure Interns are given opportunities to gain these key skills.

I am an ARIDO Intern member currently participating in the professional development program. Will my requirements change?

No, your requirements will not change. The final date for the current cycle is December 31, 2010. Participants have until March 2011 to ensure all Continuing Education Units

(CEUs) and Practice and Participation (P&P) points are entered into CheckPOINT. To review your point requirements for the current cycle (2008-10) log into CheckPOINT and click on Check Your Points.

I plan to start an interior design program in 2014. Should I enroll in a three- or four-year program?

ARIDO recommends enrolling in a four-year bachelor's degree program, in order to meet the evolving education standards and stay competitive in the marketplace. If you enrol in a three-year program, you **must** register as an ARIDO Intern by December 31, 2019 and maintain your status on an annual basis. A lapse in membership will mean having to comply with ARIDO's new requirement of a bachelor's degree starting January 1, 2015, and a CIDA accredited degree starting January 1, 2017.

What is CIDA and why is it important to my career path?

CIDA is the Council for Interior Design Accreditation. It provides the foundation for excellence in the interior design profession by setting standards for education and accrediting academic programs that meet those standards. Accreditation by the Council signifies that the interior design program is meeting educational requirements to prepare graduates for entry into the profession. Commencing January 1, 2017 the minimum entry requirement for Intern membership in ARIDO will be a CIDA accredited interior design program.

What type of interior design programs does the CIDA accredit?

CIDA accredits professional level programs that provide education for entry-level interior designers. These programs may exist in different types of institutions and may offer more than one type of certificate or degree, so students should ask specifically which is accredited. Since January 1, 2004, a program seeking accreditation must offer a minimum of a bachelor's degree. Programs that were accredited prior to that date, but which do not offer a bachelor's degree, must comply with this requirement by January 1, 2010 in order to maintain accreditation.
