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Regulatory Notice

February 23, 2024

Synopsis of Changes to Updated OAA Licence Requirements

Recently introduced amendments to Ontario's fair registration practices legislation have changed the path to becoming licensed as an architect in Ontario.

The [OAA Website](#) includes more information on these revisions, as well as this year's transition period. This email summarizes what has changed, what remains the same, and what are the next steps for those currently enrolled in the [Internship in Architecture Program \(IAP\)](#).

WHAT HAS CHANGED

- 1. The currency of experience requirement is no longer geographically restricted.** All Intern Architects must still complete at least 940 hours of architectural experience within the three years directly preceding the date of application for licence—however, this experience can occur *anywhere* as long as it meets the IAP experience eligibility.
- 2. An alternative to direct local experience has been established.** If fewer than 940 hours of experience is obtained on projects within Canada, the Intern Architect is required to complete the [Practice of Architecture in Canada](#) online course offered by the [Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada \(ROAC\)](#) prior to application for licence.
- 3. Demonstrable knowledge of Ontario practice is required.** Intern Architects will be required to complete an [outcomes-based competency self-assessment](#) to demonstrate Ontario practice knowledge prior to application for licence. (Those

who attend an Experience Requirements Committee [ERC] assessment will not be subject to this requirement unless so directed.)

These changes have been implemented to establish a method to assess the architectural competencies specific to Ontario practice and an alternative to acquire knowledge of practice in Canada prior to licensure.

WHAT REMAINS THE SAME

There is no change to the national IAP itself; these new changes are Ontario-specific. (Refer to the Ontario **Appendix B** for more information.)

There is neither a reduction in the total number of required experience hours nor revisions to the current 17 experience categories of the IAP. The examination and OAA Admission Course requirements remain the same.

The procedures are unchanged for individuals who wish to record and submit post-graduate international architectural experience gained outside of Canada while not enrolled as an Intern Architect in the IAP. In other words, if any international experience gained while not in the IAP forms part of the experience submission at the time of making application for licence, the applicant will be required to attend an assessment interview with the OAA Experience Requirements Committee.

These changes do not affect reciprocity or mutual recognition agreements currently in place and administered by the OAA.

TRANSITION PERIOD

There is a transition period in effect from **February 2 to December 31, 2024.**

Intern Architects enrolled in IAP prior to February 2, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If all licence requirements are successfully complete by December 31, 2024, the new Ontario requirements will not apply (inclusive of pending 2024 results from the Examination for Architects in Canada [ExAC] and Architect Registration Examination [ARE]).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application for licence must be made within the applicant's three-year currency of experience window—otherwise, the new Ontario requirements apply.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If any licence requirements remain outstanding by December 31, 2024, the applicant will be transitioned to the new Ontario requirements.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The option to transition to the new Ontario licensing requirements at any point during the transition period is available upon request.
Intern Architects enrolled after February 2, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of February 2, 2024, all newly enrolled Intern Architects will be required to complete the new OAA licensing requirements. This aligns with the enactment of the new Regulations by the province.

NEXT STEPS

In response to the amended Regulations and related procedures, the OAA is completing the following new resources:

- An updated **Appendix B** with more information on the new requirements;
- COMING SOON! A new online portal within your OAA profile webpage for the Ontario Practice Competency self-assessment (optional fillable PDF of the Ontario Competency self-assessment also available upon request);
- COMING SOON! A Guidebook for the *Ontario Practice Competency Self-Assessment*, as well as instructions on how to use the online portal; and
- Dedicated **website information**, including updated FAQs related to the new requirements.

These resources and documents are coming soon and will assist those on the path to licensure navigate these new requirements. Questions regarding the new requirements may be directed to iap@oaa.on.ca.

Summary of Changes

Scenario One	CERB with All Post Graduate Architectural Experience (Canadian or International) Gained While Enrolled in the IAP	
Regulation 27 s.31 requirements	At least 940 hours of experience gained on projects in Canada while Intern Architect	Less than 940 hours of experience gained on projects in Canada while Intern Architect
3,720 hours of experience	Unchanged	Unchanged
Admission Course	Unchanged	Unchanged
ExAC or ARE	Unchanged	Unchanged
ROAC Practice of Architecture in Canada		New
Ontario Competency Assessment Submission	New	New

Scenario Two	CERB with Post-graduate International Architectural Experience Gained While NOT Enrolled in the IAP	
Regulation 27 s.31 Requirements	At least 940 hours of experience gained on projects in Canada while Intern Architect	Less than 940 hours of experience gained on projects in Canada while Intern Architect
3,720 hours of experience	Unchanged	Unchanged
Admission Course	Unchanged	Unchanged
ExAC or ARE	Unchanged	Unchanged
ROAC Practice of Architecture in Canada		New
ERC assessment	Unchanged	Unchanged

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