



Association
of Registered
Interior Designers
of Ontario

INTERN COMPETENCIES REVIEW SYSTEM (ICRS)

What is the Intern Competencies Review System (ICRS) and why did ARIDO develop it?

The ICRS is not a new ARIDO initiative, but rather an improved membership review process.

As of July 1, 2017, ARIDO will recognize only a bachelor's degree from a CIDA-accredited program as the minimum education credential for membership. This is based on changes approved in 2009 and implemented in stages leading up to the 2017 requirement and is a Canada-wide change, adopted by all provinces.

ARIDO understands that a number of deserving applicants for membership and the title of "Interior Designer" may have acquired their skills through pathways other than CIDA (Council for Interior Design Accreditation)-approved educational programs, however. These "alternative applicants" might come from countries outside Canada, be seasoned designers who received their diplomas decades ago, or be recent graduates of one of several non-CIDA-accredited post-secondary design programs in Canada.

The Intern Competencies Review System provides a fair opportunity for all ARIDO applicants to demonstrate what they know and can do.

For many years, ARIDO's Membership Committee managed a foreign-trained review process for those applicants who were trained internationally and wished to work in Canada. The Intern Competencies Review System (ICRS) builds on that process to provide a fair opportunity for all ARIDO applicants to demonstrate what they know and can do.

ARIDO engaged the input of 30 practitioners to create the ICRS, which was designed to assess applicants' competencies compared to their credentials. Whether competencies are acquired through formal or informal learning and/or in combination with relevant work experience, applicants now have a fair opportunity to demonstrate that their competencies are at the level expected of CIDA (Council for Interior Design Accreditation) graduates.

Who is an alternative applicant?

An alternative applicant is anyone who aspires to become a Registered Member of ARIDO in Ontario but who has not completed a CIDA-accredited program. They must apply to ARIDO through the ICRS.

If I come in through the ICRS, do I have a different class of ARIDO membership?

No. All applicants are assessed at the same standard to determine their eligibility to meet the minimum education required for Intern Membership, and all are required to pass the NCDIQ (National Council for Interior Design Qualification) exam in order to qualify for Registered membership.

Why is ARIDO administering the ICRS? Doesn't it have to be administered through a third party?

ARIDO has always carried out reviews for alternate applicants to ARIDO intern membership. Recently, ARIDO received confirmation in writing from the Ontario Fairness Commissioner (OFC), the government branch responsible for regulatory bodies in Ontario, that third-party competency assessments are not required.

I heard that the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) also offers a similar review process. Why has ARIDO developed its own review process?

ARIDO has always reviewed alternate applications to intern membership and has never relinquished that duty to another organization. ARIDO still requires its members to have completed the NCDIQ (National Council for Interior Design Qualification) exam in order to qualify for Registered membership.

For more information

- To read the ICRS white paper, [click here](#).
- For a more detailed overview of the ICRS, [click here](#).
- To read more about the 2017 changes to ARIDO's education requirements, [visit our website](#)