



# The Interior Design Profession in Ontario

## How can internationally trained interior designers, architects, and other professionals become interior designers in Ontario?

'Interior Designer' is a provincially regulated title in Ontario. Just like architects, nurses, and lawyers, individuals working in the interior design field and using the title 'Interior Designer' must be a Registered Member of the provincial regulator, ARIDO.

## What is ARIDO?

ARIDO is the [Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario](#). As a professional body, ARIDO's mandate is to regulate the interior design profession in Ontario for the betterment of the profession and in the best interest of the public.

ARIDO sets standards for admission into membership, including education and experience standards, professional development requirements as well as adherence to a Code of Ethics and Practice Standards.

## What is ICRS?

Intern Competency Review System (ICRS). It's an alternative pathway to membership for experienced professionals who want to join ARIDO and become Registered Interior Designers.

The ICRS is a competency-based assessment. To complete the ICRS, applicants must complete a book of evidence based on a defined set of competencies. Evidence from work experience, education, or training can be included to demonstrate the competencies.

ARIDO's current minimum standard for Intern membership is a 4-year bachelor's degree in interior design from a CIDA accredited institution\*. By completing the ICRS, individuals demonstrate they have the competencies which would be gained through a 4-year Bachelor's degree.

Individuals who have completed training in architecture, interior design, or related professions internationally can apply for ICRS to join ARIDO as an Intern Member.

They can then complete the next steps to qualify for Registered membership and become an interior designer in Ontario.

\*CIDA is the [Council for Interior Design Accreditation](#) which operates in North America.

# ICRS process

# 1



## Application

Applicants prepare and submit a book of evidence online. Applicants must submit an overall introductory statement for their book as well as evidence statements for each piece of evidence submitted.

To be successful in the competencies review, applicants should provide one piece of evidence (direct or indirect) for each of the 33 competencies

### ICRS Competencies:

- Communication
- Professional and Business Practice
- Codes and Regulation
- Design Process
- Design Theory
- Human Environment
- Product and Materials
- Construction

# 2



## Evidence Review

An independent reviewer will evaluate the book of evidence to determine if the evidence submitted by the applicant demonstrates they meet the competencies.

### What types of evidence are acceptable?

There are two types of evidence, direct evidence from work experience (drawings or renderings, plans and elevations, concept boards, request for proposals, bid documents) and indirect evidence from education and/or training (course syllabi, case studies, research papers, design assignments).

# 3



## Decision

After the review is completed, the decision and feedback are sent to the applicant. The reviewer's decision will produce one of three options:

**Competencies Fully Met** » Applicants can apply for Intern membership.

**Competencies Partially Met** » Applicants can apply for a reassessment after addressing competency gaps.

The application for reassessment must be filed within 10 business days of receiving the decision.

They have up to 6 months to provide additional evidence to address the competency gaps.

They must pay a reassessment fee.

**Competencies Not Met** » Applicants must wait a year to re-apply for the ICRS

Reviewers clearly identify competency gaps so they can be addressed by the applicant.



Click here for more information.

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