

Interior Designer

Licensing Process

**Alberta Association of Architects (AAA)
Intern Interior Designer (IID)
Program**
(Program registration fee: \$60)
(Annual dues: \$115)

Program prerequisites:
✓ Degree in Interior Design
from CIDA-accredited school

IID program completed
Program completion requirements:
✓ Course work (3,520 hours)
✓ Registration courses (2)
✓ Work experience and completion of the AAA Intern
Licensed Interior Designer Log Book (Fee: \$50)
✓ NCIDQ Examination

**IID program
not
completed**

Application for licensing
Registration fee: \$355
✓ Copy of degree(s)/diploma(s)
✓ Resumé
✓ Letters of reference
✓ Final interview

Licensed Interior Designer
(Annual dues: \$965)

**Optional
Occupations**
✓ Exhibit Designer
✓ Interior Decorator
✓ Painter and Decorator

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Description of Occupation

Licensed Interior Designers plan new interiors and renovate existing interiors in commercial buildings as well as residential homes. Their responsibilities vary depending on the project, but in general, they identify their clients' needs, prepare design plans, work around their clients' budgets, check that the appropriate permits are obtained in order to do the design work, and work with other design and construction professionals to ensure the project is carried out according to plan.

Licensed Interior Designers are concerned with general and detailed planning, spatial arrangements, health and safety issues, constructability and technical considerations (such as lighting and acoustics), and the aesthetics of a space.

Licensed Interior Designer is a restricted title protected by the Architects Act of Alberta. According to the Act, the title can only be used by those licensed under the Architects Act. Only Licensed Interior Designers (or Architects) can practice interior design as it's defined in the Act.

Obtaining Licensing in Alberta

In order to practice as a Licensed Interior Designer, you must register with the Alberta Association of Architects (AAA).

Before you can register with the AAA, you must complete the following steps:

- Complete the necessary education upgrades from a school that is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA).
- Enrol in and complete the Intern Interior Designer (IID) program.

When you have finished the above steps, you can apply to the AAA for registration as a Licensed Interior Designer. You must:

- Contact the AAA to receive an Intern Interior Designer to Licensed Interior Designer Application Form.
- Submit the completed form along with the documents outlined in this fact sheet.
- Complete a final registration interview with the AAA if your application is approved.

After a successful interview, you will become a member of the AAA and you will also be licensed under the Architects Act of Alberta and the Interior Design Regulation. These qualifications mean you can practice as a Licensed Interior Designer in Alberta.

Contact information and other resources are at the end of this document.

Residency Requirement

The AAA does not have residency requirements, however, you will need to be in Alberta to complete the IID program.

Requirements

Internationally educated Interior Designers must meet the following requirements:

1. *Academic Credentials*

Anyone applying to become a Licensed Interior Designer in Alberta must go through the IID program.

In order to **apply** for the IID, you must have:

- A degree in Interior Design from a CIDA-accredited school. The school you apply for may give you credit for courses you have already taken, but the decision is up to the school. A link to CIDA-accredited schools is at the end of this document.

In order to **complete** the IID, you must have:

- Completed all 3,520 hours of the program, which include components such as programming, planning/schematic design, design development, contract documents, contract administration and professional practice and additional experience.
- Completed two (2) registration courses during your third year in the program. These are:
 - The Alberta Building Code course; and
 - The Architects Act General Regulation course.
- Successfully completed the required National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) examination.

Once you have completed the IID and are applying for licensing with the AAA, you will need to submit the following with your application:

- Copy of degree(s)
- Current resumé outlining your education and work experience

2. *Work Experience*

You must have at least three (3) years of work experience in order to become a Licensed Interior Designer, however at least two (2) of those years must be done while in the IID as they must be entered into the AAA Intern Interior Designer Experience Log Book.

3. *Good Character and Reputation*

You do not need to provide proof of good character and reputation in order to apply for the IID; however, you will need to provide the following to the AAA when you apply to become a licensed member:

- Three (3) letters of reference that confirm you are of good character and professionally competent

4. *Examinations*

As an Intern Interior Designer, you must pass the NCIDQ examination. The examination is held twice a year in Calgary at Mount Royal University (location is subject to change).

The exam includes two (2) multiple-choice sections and one (1) practicum section that requires candidates to produce several design solutions. The exam is held over two (2) days.

English Language

English is the working language in Alberta. While there is no English language requirement to become a Licensed Interior Designer with the AAA, proficiency in English can help you find a job.

Payment

The following fees must be submitted during the licensing process. Contact the AAA for payment arrangements. Fees are in Canadian dollars except where otherwise noted.

| AAA Fees | |
|--|----------|
| Intern Interior Designer Registration | \$60 |
| Intern Interior Designer Annual Dues | \$115 |
| Intern Interior Designer Log Book Fee (plus shipping and handling) | \$50 |
| Licensed Interior Designer Registration | \$355 |
| Licensed Interior Designer Annual Dues | \$965 |
| NCIDQ Examination Fees | |
| Application Fee | \$210 US |
| Section One (1) | \$285 US |
| Section Two (2) | \$335 US |
| Section Three (3) | \$435 US |
| *Fees are subject to change. See association for most up-to-date fees. | |

Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for all Interior Designers according to the Alberta 2013 Wage and Salary survey:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Average hours worked per week | 38.4 |
| Average wage per hour | \$32.32 |
| Average salary per year | \$63,947 |

Note:

The above salaries are for unlicensed and licensed Interior Designers. At this time there is no data available for the salaries of Licensed Interior Designers; however, their salary range is expected to be higher due to their scope of practice.

Employment Options

You can also consider working in Alberta in related occupations such as Exhibit Designer, Interior Decorator or Painter and Decorator.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website: [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Interior Designer](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo) (for information on all occupations, see www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

Alberta Association of Architects
10515 Saskatchewan Drive NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4S1
Telephone: 780-432-0224
Fax: 780-439-1431
Email: info@aaa.ab.ca
Website: www.aaa.ab.ca

Resources

This information is only an overview of the licensing process. For the most current information on Interior Designer licensing visit the AAA website at www.aaa.ab.ca.

Application Forms and Information

[Intern Interior Designer \(IID\) Application](#)

[Intern Interior Designer \(IID\) Program Information](#)

Academic Credentials

[Council for Interior Design Accreditation \(CIDA\) - accredited schools](#)

Examinations

[National Council for Interior Design Qualification \(NCIDQ\) Examination](#)