



Architects

Pathway to Registration for Internationally Educated Professionals (IEP) in New Brunswick

Architects are regulated professionals in New Brunswick. This means that you must be registered with the [Architects' Association of New Brunswick \(AANB\)](#)—the regulatory authority—to be authorized to practice and to use the titles of “architect”, “registered architect”, “licensed architect”, “qualified architect”, “duly qualified architect”, or any like words, initials, or expression. Membership alone does not grant the right to practice in New Brunswick, this right is vested in the Certificate of Practice which is issued to firms and sole proprietorships.

Architects conceptualize, plan and develop designs for the construction and renovation of commercial, institutional and residential buildings. They are employed by architectural firms, private corporations and governments, or they may be self-employed.¹

For work opportunities and other information, visit [NBjobs.ca](#).



STEPS TO REGISTRATION

There are three pathways to licensing for internationally educated architects based on eligibility:

1. **Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs):** As a member of the [Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada \(ROAC\)](#), AANB is signatory to several MRAs that jointly recognize the credentials and qualifications of registrants to enhance mobility and provide a streamlined pathway for registration. Current MRAs include [Canada-US Inter-Recognition Agreement](#), [Canada-USA-Mexico \(Tri-National\)](#), [Canada-Australia-New Zealand \(APEC\)](#), [Canada-Europe \(ACE\)](#)—pending, and signatories of the [Canberra Accord](#). Eligibility requirements vary for each agreement.
2. **Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect (BEFA) Program:** The [BEFA program](#) is an alternative pathway to licensure for experienced architects that is administered by the [Canadian Architectural Certification Board \(CACB\)](#) on behalf of ROAC. It assesses the experience of applicants against the [Canadian Standard of Competency for Architects](#).
3. **Internship in Architecture Program (IAP):** Applicants may also pursue licensing through the internship route (IAP) provided they meet the [eligibility requirements](#).

PART 1: COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

Step 1 – Language Proficiency (applies to all): Although the AANB does not have a language proficiency requirement for registration, most employers require architects to have proficiency in either English or French². Language proficiency may also be required for immigration or academic upgrading purposes.

Step 2 – Academic Credentials: The minimum educational requirement to become licensed as an architect in New Brunswick is a bachelor's or master's degree accredited by the [Canadian Architectural Certification Board \(CACB\)](#) —or equivalent. All IEPs must demonstrate their education substantially equivalent to the [Canadian Education Standard \(CES\) in Architecture](#).

MRA applicants eligible under the Canberra Accord will need to apply under “[degree or diploma not](#)

¹ [National Occupational Classification \(NOC\)](#) definition.

² English and French are the official languages of New Brunswick.

[accredited by CACB](#)". Current fees may be found [here](#). Other MRA applicants may be exempt from this step (refer to each MRA).

BEFA applicants will have academic credentials assessed when they apply through the [BEFA website](#). Current fees may be found [here](#).

IAP applicants must receive [academic certification from CACB](#) by applying online and providing the required supporting documentation. Applicants will receive either full certification or provisional certification, if gaps are identified, where they will be directed to complete additional coursework. Certification fees may be found [here](#).

Step 3 – Past Experience: *MRA applicants:* Each agreement stipulates varying experience requirements and the approach to vet experience.

BEFA applicants must have post registration/licensure experience in architecture (currently seven years minimum) and submit documentation to [demonstrate competency](#) in specified categories that illustrate the role of an architect throughout an entire project. This experience portfolio will be assessed by a panel of three architects after which an interview will be held either in person or remotely. Current fees can be found [here](#).

IAP Applicants: Past experience is not a requirement for IAP registration.

PART 2: REGISTRATION WITH THE NEW BRUNSWICK REGULATORY BODY

Step 4 – Canadian Experience (applies to IAP and BEFA): After CACB academic certification (Step 2), *IAP applicants* may apply to the AANB for internship. Current fees can be found [here](#). Applicants must secure both a Supervising Architect and a Mentor, and obtain intern status with the AANB before acquiring 3720 hour of experience recorded in the [Canadian Experience Record Book \(CERB\)](#) as detailed in the [IAP Manual](#). Interns are also required to complete the three modules of the AANB Admissions Course.

BEFA applicants must obtained at least six months of relevant experience in Canada before the assessment interview (Step 3).

Step 5 – Examination (applies to IAP): Interns must successfully complete all four (4) sections of the [Examination for Architects in Canada \(ExAC\)](#). This pencil-and-paper exam is administered once a year on two consecutive days simultaneously in all provinces. Interns are given three consecutive attempts to achieve a passing score on each section. Registration and fee details can be found [here](#).

Step 6 – Full Membership (applies to all): After completing the above steps, full membership with AANB requires submitting the appropriate application form and supporting documentation based on the pathway. Application forms and fees can be found [here](#).

If you're in New Brunswick: Contact a [WorkingNB office](#) for help navigating the registration process and to access employment counselling services.



REGISTRATION COSTS AND TIMELINE³

MRA pathways fees and timelines vary considerably depending upon the agreement, (e.g., approximately \$1,100 CAD for USA, approximately \$9,800 CAD for Mexico).

³ Fee and timeline estimates are as of August 2024 and are subject to change. Individual situations may increase costs and timelines—some examples include: document translation into English or French, international couriers, document notarization, travel and living to exam sites, professional liability insurance requirements, etc.

Total *BEFA pathway* fees are approximately \$6,290 CAD and the process can take 12-18 months.

Total *IAP pathway* fees are approximately \$3,400 CAD and the process can take up to 2-3 years depending on how long it takes to accumulate CERB experience, when the ExAC is scheduled, and how many examination attempts are required.

Pre-arrival: You may begin your credential assessment with CACB before you arrive in Canada.



WORKING IN NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

To work legally in Canada, you must be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident, or hold a valid work permit. For immigration assistance, visit [Immigration New Brunswick](#). If you are already in Canada, WorkingNB employment counsellors are available to assist you prior to your arrival in New Brunswick. Email: vecs.svce@gnb.ca to set up an appointment.



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