
Australian Institute of Architects

A+ PRACTICE MEMBERSHIP

FAQ



Australian
Institute of
Architects

Index

Page	Contents
1	An Introduction to A+ and Institute Member Benefits
2	How is A+ different from individual membership?
2	What are the eligibility criteria for practices?
2	What are the eligibility criteria for staff?
2	What are the main obligations of being an A+ practice?
2	What are the main obligations of being an A+ practice?
3	Can we take up A+ membership if the practice is based outside Australia?
3	Is there a minimum requirement for PI insurance for A+ members?
3	We have multiple offices located in difference states/territories. How do we join A+?
3	What happens if an employee joins or leaves the practice?
3	If I become an Institute member as an employee of an A+ practice, can I transfer my A+ membership to another practice?
3	How are the fees for A+ membership calculated?
4	Who pays the individual A+ fees – the practice or the individual?
4	Will individual members continue to receive current benefits?
4	Can members in A+ practices still use the post-nominal letters 'RAIA' or 'FRAIA' etc?
4	What are the CPD requirements?
4	Any further questions?
5	A+ Eligible Staff Member Categories

An Introduction to A+ and Institute Member Benefits

A+ is the Institute's Practice Membership, providing your practice with tools necessary to assist you in delivering the best possible architectural service to your clients.

Engage

- Local and national e-news bulletins
- National and Chapter digital publications
- Individual and group A+ discounts to conventions & conferences
- Practice forums and networking activities
- Participate in committees and chapter council

Connect

- Belong to a network of leading architectural practices
- Build your public profile through preferential listing on the Find An Architect website
- Support your graduates of architecture staff on their pathway to registration through discounted access to the Institute's Practice of Architecture Learning Series (PALS)
- Access the Senior Counsellor and 10 Minute Free legal reference services
- Participate in the National Mentoring Program
- Engage with fellow members via the Institute's online Community platform

Excel

- Equip your professional design staff with essential practice resources including:
 - Online, download and print access to the full library of Australian Standards and the National Construction Code exclusive to A+ members.
 - Dedicated expert human resources and industrial relation services tailored to the architectural profession through HR+ one-on-one phone, email and chat, as well as HR hub online resources.
 - Acumen Practice Notes provide guidance on all facets of architectural practice and sustainable design
- Have your projects recognised by entering them in the Institute's awards programs
- Receive priority listing in the Find an Architect Directory

Access

- The Institute's Member Rewards Program provides a range of member discounts and special offers with via corporate partnerships.
- A+ Members badge (digital logo)
- A+ discounts for ABIC contracts and agreements purchases

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FAQ

1. How is A+ different from individual membership?

A+ membership is different in that it provides all eligible staff (see item 3) of your practice with Institute membership while also providing them with access to additional services such as Australian Standards and the National Construction Code online, HR Hub helpdesk and some higher member discounts. A+ practices are also eligible to activate a profile on the Institute's Find An Architect web directory.

A+ is about a whole of workplace commitment to best practice, the Institute and the future of the architectural profession.

2. What are the eligibility criteria for practices?

To be eligible for A+ membership a practice must first meet all requirements of the relevant Architects Registration Board for architectural practices in Australia (if any).

Discreet business units or cost centres in multi-disciplinary organisations or government bodies may also be eligible provided that the primary activity of the business unit is the practice of architecture and, the unit is also under the direction of a registered architect.

Sole practitioners, provided they are registered architects, are eligible for A+ membership.

Only architects registered to practice in Australia can lead an application for A+ membership

3. What are the eligibility criteria for staff?

Eligible staff includes all registered architects, graduates of architecture and allied professionals with a qualification in a built environment related discipline. This includes interior designers, planners, urban designers, landscape architects and the like. Only permanent staff working more than 3 days per week or more in the practice should be invited to enrol. Casual staff are not required to be included (but are welcome). Students already enrolled as Institute SONA members may also be included if they are working in the practice however no additional fees are charged for their inclusion.

4. What are the main obligations of being an A+ practice?

Both the benefits and obligations of A+ membership are aimed at ensuring that A+ practices are best equipped to be considered and promoted as premium quality practices. The main obligations of A+ practices are:

- Having all eligible staff invited to enrol as members under the A+ practice
- Having all enrolled registered architects and senior graduates (Associate members) commit to life-long learning through mandatory CPD (10 formal + 10 informal points per annum)
- Maintain appropriate levels of Professional Indemnity Insurance

A+ PRACTICE MEMBERSHIP

FAQ

5. Can we take up A+ membership if the practice is based outside Australia?

Generally, no. However, where an overseas practice opens an office in Australia and is under the direction of an architect registered to practice in Australia, they are then eligible for A+ membership. Only the staff residing in Australia are eligible to be enrolled in the membership and the A+ logo can only be used to market the Australian office.

6. Is there a minimum requirement for PI insurance for A+ members?

No. There is no specific requirement for the value of PI insurance to be taken out by A+ practices, but confirmation of current PI insurance must be provided.

7. We have multiple offices located in different states/territories. How do we join A+?

Firms with multiple offices can choose to enrol any or all offices in A+ membership. Only staff located within the office holding the A+ membership are eligible to be added. Fee discounts apply to firms who enrol multiple offices, but each office will be invoiced separately for the fees associated with A+.

8. What happens if an employee joins or leaves the practice?

The practice can update its member profile online at any time, via the A+ practice management portal. In addition, all A+ practices will be contacted prior to the end of each quarter and asked to verify all changes in the number, categories or status of any eligible staff members in the practice.

9. If I become an Institute member as an employee of an A+ practice, can I transfer my A+ membership to another practice?

Yes, but only if the new practice is also an A+ practice. If they are not an A+ practice then, no, however you are most welcome to retain your membership as an individual member noting that some exclusive A+ benefits such as access to Australian Standards and the HR Hub Helpdesk are not available under individual membership.

10. How are the fees for A+ membership calculated?

Fees for A+ membership comprise a practice fee based on the total number of staff plus the addition of the individual A+ member fees that apply to each staff member and their category of membership (refer to the A+ subscription rates table). The fees charged per individual staff member vary with the size of the practice. The practice is responsible for payment of all membership fees associated with A+.

A+ PRACTICE MEMBERSHIP

FAQ

11. Who pays the individual A+ fees – the practice or the individual?

The practice is responsible for the A+ membership fees. However, the practice can choose to make any arrangement with staff that they choose regarding payment of individual fees. Practices may also choose to include A+ membership as part of the salary package for staff.

12. Will individual members continue to receive current benefits?

Yes, all your current benefits are still included with the addition of A+ benefits.

13. Can members in A+ practices still use the post-nominal letters 'RAIA' or 'FRAIA' etc?

Yes, of course. All the rights and privileges of individual Institute membership remain the same for A+ members.

14. What are the CPD requirements?

Registered architects (Member category) and experienced graduates of architecture (Associate category members) are required to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of CPD annually comprising 10 formal and 10 informal points across at least two of the four main competency areas (design, documentation, project management, practice management).

Any further questions?

Contact the National Membership Team
email: membership@architecture.com.au
p: 1800 770 617 p: (03) 8620 3877

A+ Eligible Staff

Member Categories

Categories	Description
Member (incl Fellow & Life Fellow)	<p>1.0 Registered architect in Australia (practising)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2.0 Architects are currently registered with or accredited by NCARB, RIBA, Malaysian Institute of Architects, Architects Education & registration board of New Zealand, Architectural Institute of British Columbia, Singapore Institute of Architects or The Hong Kong Institute of Architects.</p> <p>Note: A+ principals must be currently registered as practising architects in Australia.</p>
Associate	<p>1.0 Graduated from an accredited or recognised course in architecture more than 5 years ago</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2.0 Non-practicing/formerly registered architects performing non-traditional roles</p>
Affiliate	<p>1.0 Members must have completed a bachelor degree qualification or higher in a discipline related to the built environment. (e.g., interior design, landscape architecture, project management, engineering). This can include those with an undergraduate degree (i.e., Bachelor of Architecture).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2.0 Members can also hold tertiary qualifications in architecture (Bachelors degree or above) that is not recognised in Australia as being equivalent to the Masters of Architecture (AU) and therefore do not yet meet the prerequisites for the Architectural Practice Examination.</p>
Graduate	<p>1.0 Members must have successfully completed an accredited Master of Architecture (or equivalent) in Australia within the last 5 years to be eligible for the 'Graduate Membership' category.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2.0 Overseas completed qualification must be accredited by AACA (successful Overseas Qualifications Assessment Stage 2 assessment), NCARB, RIBA Part 2, Malaysian Institute of Architects, Architects Education & registration board of New Zealand, Architectural Institute of British Columbia, Singapore Institute of Architects, or Canberra Accord on Architectural Education.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>3.0 All Graduate Members must have a qualification that would allow them to undertake the Architectural Practice Examination with the view to becoming a registered architect in Australia.</p>
Student	<p>1.0 Students enrolled in a bachelor degree or master's in a built environment related discipline and is an active SONA member.</p>



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