
Australian Institute of Architects

A+ PRACTICE MEMBERSHIP 2021

FAQ, Terms & Conditions



Australian
Institute of
Architects

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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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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+ and higher member discounts.

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 need to be included. Casual staff are not required to be included (but can be). Contractors and enrolled students are generally not eligible.

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 thus:

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

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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 difference 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.

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). Practices of 6 or more staff may be eligible for fee discounts so should contact the Institute for a detailed quote. The practice is responsible for payment of membership fees associated with A+.

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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 and experienced graduates of architecture 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 Level 1 (incl Fellow & Life Fellow)	<p>1.0 Registered architect in Australia (or have been previously)</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 practicing architects in Australia.</p>
Affiliate Level 2	<p>1.0 Members must have a tertiary qualification (bachelors degree or above) in a built environment related discipline (eg. Landscape architect, interior designer, interior architect, industrial designer). This can include those with an undergraduate degree (ie Bachelor of Architecture).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2.0 Members can also have overseas architecture tertiary qualifications (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 Masters of Architecture (or equivalent) in Australia 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 3, 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> <p>Graduate Tier A graduated more than 10 years ago (2010 or before)</p> <p>Graduate Tier B graduated between 6 and 10 years ago (2011-2015)</p> <p>Graduate Tier C graduated in the past 2-5 years (2016-2019)</p> <p>Graduate Tier D graduated <2 years ago (2020-2021)</p>



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