

A+ PRACTICE MEMBERSHIP 2020

Terms and Conditions



Australian
Institute of
Architects

1. How is A+ different from individual membership?

A+ membership is different in that it provides all eligible staff 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 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

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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+.

7. 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.

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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

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 and [A+ fee calculator](#) on the website for more information. 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+.

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, such as personal copies of *Architecture Australia* magazine?

Yes, all your current benefits are still included with the addition of A+ benefits. Larger practices can request that staff nominate their home address for delivery of mail to avoid collection of multiple copies at the practice address.

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).

15. How do we join A+?

Send an email to membership@architecture.com.au

Any further questions?

Contact the National Membership Team
email: membership@architecture.com.au

p: 1800 770 617

p: (03) 8620 3877