

# Student membership FAQs December 2011

## What is the process of becoming a Registered Interior Designer?

1. Obtain required interior design education. (Currently, anyone registered in an interior design program can apply for student membership).  
Minimum requirement is currently no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credits of interior design coursework that culminates in a certificate, degree or diploma.  
As of January 1, 2015 the minimum requirement will be a bachelor degree in interior design.  
As of January 1, 2017 the minimum requirement will be a CIDA-accredited bachelor degree in interior design.
2. Obtain required work experience to write the NCIDQ exam.  
Refer to <http://ncidq.org/pdf/Exam&IDPEligibilityRequirements.pdf> for details.  
After completing education and while obtaining work experience, you may become a Provisional member.  
Provisional members must undertake to write and successfully complete the NCIDQ Examination within five years of becoming a Provisional member.
3. Write and pass the NCIDQ exam.
  - a. Once this has been achieved, you can become a Registered Interior Designer.
  - b. If you were not a provisional member before this, you may apply directly as a professional member and use the term "Registered Interior Designer"

## IDIBC has approved changes to minimum education requirements for professional membership. What do the changes mean to me as a new applicant?

If you graduated with a diploma in interior design you may apply to become a provisional member up until December 31, 2014. After this date a bachelor degree in interior design will be the minimum education requirement for provisional membership leading to professional registered status.\* Commencing in 2017, the minimum standard will be a CIDA-accredited bachelor degree in interior design. Additionally, all those existing provisional members that do not meet the minimum education requirement by the dates mentioned here will not be able to renew membership under the provisional category.

\*Refer to provisional member category for details on the process of transitioning from provisional to professional membership

## I just graduated from a two-year program outside of BC. Am I eligible to join IDIBC?

If the program held a minimum of 60 semester credit hours or 90 quarter credit hours of interior design coursework, then you are eligible (until December 31, 2014) to become a provisional member of IDIBC. Provisional members need to obtain required work experience and pass the NCIDQ exam within five years of obtaining provisional membership.

## I am currently enrolled in a diploma program and will graduate in May 2013. What must I do to become a professional member of IDIBC?

You can join IDIBC as a provisional member any time prior to December 31, 2014 by completing the application and supporting documentation. Once you have joined, you must obtain supervised work experience and complete the NCIDQ exam (within five years of being eligible).

## I will obtain a diploma but will graduate after December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Does that mean I cannot become a member?

Not at all! Anyone engaged in a profession, field or business related to Interior Design may apply to become an associate member. Associate members are involved in activities such as the preparation of plans, drawings, specifications or graphic representations, or another limited field of interior design practice.

## What is CIDA and why is it important to my career path?

CIDA is the Council for Interior Design Accreditation. It provides the foundation for excellence in the interior design profession by setting standards for education and accrediting academic programs that meet those standards. Accreditation by CIDA signifies that the interior design program is meeting quality standards established by the profession for entry-level education. CIDA's accreditation process is thorough and focused solely on interior design programs that culminate in a professional-level degree. Interior design programs that voluntarily undertake the CIDA accreditation process demonstrate a strong commitment to quality and continual improvement. Please refer to CIDA's website: <http://accredit-id.org/>

## What type of interior design programs does the CIDA accredit?

CIDA accredits professional level programs that provide education for entry-level interior designers. These programs may exist in different types of institutions and may offer more than one type of certificate or degree, so students should ask specifically which program is CIDA-accredited. Since January 1, 2004, a program seeking accreditation must offer a minimum of a bachelor degree. Programs that were accredited by CIDA prior to that date, but which do not offer a bachelor degree, must have complied with this requirement by January 1, 2010 in order to maintain accreditation. Commencing January 1, 2017 the minimum educational requirement for provisional membership (leading to professional membership) in IDIBC will be a CIDA-accredited interior design degree program.

**I have other questions on CIDA, accredited programs and how to choose. Where can I get more information?**

Please go to <http://accredit-id.org/students-parents/faqs/>

**What is the difference between IDC and IDIBC?**

Interior Designers of Canada (IDC) is the national advocacy association for the interior design profession. As national representative for eight provincial associations, IDC represents more than 3,500 members including fully qualified/professional interior designers, intern/provisional members (who have yet to pass the NCIDQ exam), student, educator and retired members as well as industry members.

Interior Designers Institute of BC (IDIBC) is the self-regulatory professional body for interior design practitioners in BC. We register interior designers who meet an established standard of experience and competence and conduct their practice in accordance with a prescribed code of ethics. By identifying these individuals as Registered Interior Designers (R.I.D.), the public is assured of a recognized level of skill and experience when seeking the services of an interior designer. Membership at IDIBC automatically includes membership at IDC.

**How do I (a student) approach RID's with questions about the profession?**

Get involved with IDIBC and meet your peers. Come to our events, network and volunteer! These activities can provide great opportunities for you to meet and discuss any questions you may have with local RIDs.

**Why should I become a student member?**

Student membership allows you to stay on top of the profession's news with our seminars, newsletters, e-blasts, and more. You can take part in our educational programs and accredited CEU courses. You can find product and service suppliers in your community with our resource directory; and connect with fellow members through our membership directory. You can also help shape the future of your profession by participating in IDIBC's committees. You will meet and socialize with others who share a passion for the world of interior design. You might even meet your future employer. And best of all: membership is free!

This is your profession. You are part of the generation that will shape its future. What do you think that should look like?