# PATHS TO ARCHITECTURAL LICENSURE IN CANADA

## DOMESTIC EDUCATION PATH

STUDYING ARCHITECTURE IN ACCREDITED PROGRAM*

*accredited by the CACB

**Typically 5-7 years**

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**GRADUATE WITH A PROFESSIONAL DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE***

*accredited by the CACB

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CACB CERTIFICATION

↓

INTERNSHIP (IAP)

annual fee and certain specific requirements may differ by regulator

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EXAMINATION

↓

**LICENSURE**

**IAP Program: 2 years min.**

## RAIC SYLLABUS

NO PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURE DEGREE

**SYLLABUS WORK/STUDY PROGRAM PATH**

**Typically 10-14 years (including IAP program)**

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CACB CERTIFICATION

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INTERNSHIP (IAP)

RAIC Syllabus work experience hours will overlap with required IAP hours

annual fee and certain specific requirements may differ by regulator

↓

EXAMINATION

↓

**LICENSURE**

## CACB ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION

FOREIGN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

↓

ELIGIBILITY

↓

ASSESSMENT

↓

further studies may be required

↓

CACB CERTIFICATION

**~4 months**

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INTERNSHIP (IAP)

annual fee and certain specific requirements may differ by regulator

↓

EXAMINATION

↓

**LICENSURE**

**IAP Program: 2 years min.**

## CACB BROADLY EXPERIENCED FOREIGN ARCHITECTS (BEFA)

FOREIGN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

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ELIGIBILITY

↓

DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCE

↓

INTERVIEW

↓

CACB CERTIFICATION

**~1.5 years**

↓

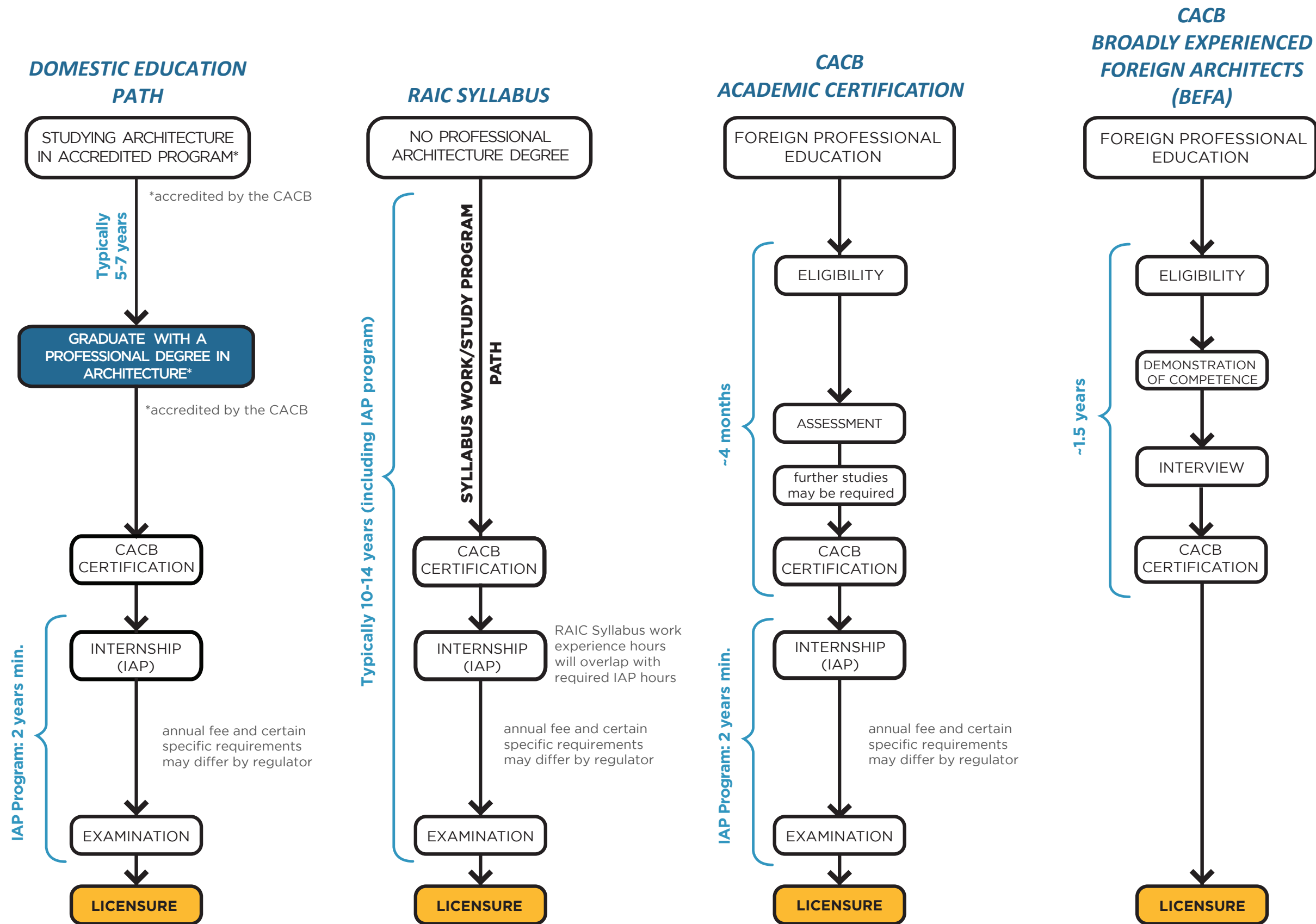**LICENSURE**

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See notes page regarding eligibility requirements for each path and additional details

Abbreviations Legend:

**CACB:** Canadian Architectural Certification Board
**BEFA:** Broadly Experienced Foreign Architects Program
**IAP:** Internship in Architecture Program
**RAIC:** Royal Architectural Institute of Canada
**ROAC:** Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada

### MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENTS

Architects from countries that have a Mutual Recognition Agreement with Canada (USA, Mexio, Australia, New Zealand and member states in the European Union) may qualify to be granted a credential that will lead to a license to practice architecture in Canada, and vice versa for Canadian architects. Review eligibility requirements and fees on the ROAC website (under "Professional Mobility").

### ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGIST (alternative path)

If none of these options are viable for you, you may want to consider getting certified as a technologist. This requires completion of a 2-3 year college program. Depending where you live there may be the option of getting a limited license (can stamp certain types of buildings under certain limitations) or registering as an architectural technologist. Check your local regulator and technologist association(s).

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Disclaimer: This document is meant to help individuals determine which pathway to architectural licensure may be best suited for them and is meant for general guidance only. To gain a full understanding of the eligibility and other requirements of each pathway, individuals must review program requirements on relevant websites and contact RAIC (syllabus), ROAC (IAP program) or CACB for more info.

## NOTES ON RAIC SYLLABUS:

RAIC: Royal Architectural Institute of Canada

### ELIGIBILITY

Potential students can apply to the *RAIC Syllabus Program* once they have finished High School by submitting a Design Portfolio, letters of reference and an essay on "Why I Want to Study Architecture" with their application. Students with a previous work experience can apply for "back-entering" credit for those work hours. Students with equivalent courses can apply for credits in academic (history, theory and technical) courses. Students who graduated from a minimum 4-year, design-based university program, with advanced capabilities in design, can apply for Design Studio Advanced Standing.

### PROGRAM

The purpose of the RAIC Syllabus Program is to provide national architectural education through practical experience and courses of study. RAIC Syllabus students work and carry out their studies in parallel.

The RAIC Syllabus Program provides an accessible alternate path towards licensure that combines education and work experience requirements through practitioner-led design studios, academic study, and apprenticeship/ internship. Graduates receive the RAIC Professional Diploma in Architecture (DIPL. ARCH.) which is accepted by the CACB for individual certification.

The program is divided into 3 parts:
Part 1 – 9 courses
Part 2 – 10 courses + 2800 work experience hours
Part 3 – 10 courses (including thesis) + 7000 work experience hours

RAIC Syllabus work experience hours will overlap with required IAP hours. Consult the IAP Guide's Appendix B for your province.

### CACB REFERRAL

Students who graduated from a program that is not CACB Accredited may be asked by the CACB for additional courses relative to minimum training requirements for architects in Canada. These courses are available through Canadian Accredited Universities as well as the RAIC Syllabus Program

Total cost to complete syllabus program is ~$30,000 (though note this pathway does not require completing a university degree)

## NOTES ON CACB ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION:

CACB: Canadian Architectural Certification Board

### ELIGIBILITY

Have completed a Professional Architectural degree outside of Canada/from a non-accredited program. The *CACB* assesses the educational qualifications of individuals holding professional degree or diploma in architecture against the Canadian Educational Standard requirements.

Note that professional degrees in architecture, since January 1, 2010, covered by the accreditation/validation systems under the *Canberra Accord* - to which the CACB is a signatory of - are considered substantially equivalent. This does not mean automatic certification of one's degree, but the assessment fees are adapted accordingly.

### ASSESSMENT

A CACB application must be submitted in hardcopy or online in addition to the following documention listed below.

Applicant is required to submit (translated to English or French):
- Official transcript of the record of completed courses or certified true copy thereof.
- Certified true copy of all degrees
- Official university calendar describing the professional program in architecture or equivalent documentation (course syllabus). The university calendar must be corresponding to the years of your studies.
- List of academic design projects completed throughout the program in architecture as well as brief description of each project in a maximum of 4 pages
- Portfolio of academic design (optional but recommended)
- Applicant must pay the required application fee (online or by cheque)

### CERTIFICATION

Some applicants may be advised by CACB they need to complete further studies.

Post certification, the applicant is able to register as an intern architect with a provincial/territorial architectural association

Rough cost to complete this path, not including cost of university education or annual membership fees, is between $1000-$5000.

## NOTES ON CACB BEFA:

CACB: Canadian Architectural Certification Board
BEFA: Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect Program

### ELIGIBILITY

*BEFA* assesses work experience and competencies required for the practice of Architecture in Canada. You can apply for BEFA certification if you can demonstrate that you meet the following mandatory requirements:

1. Have been formally educated as an architect and completed an architectural education/degree.
2. Have practiced as a licensed/ registered architect in a foreign jurisdiction.
3. Have at least seven years of post registration/licensure experience in architecture within the last twelve years.
4. Having obtained at least six months of relevant experience in Canada before the assessment interview. This experience:

   a. must be gained within three years before the date scheduled for the assessment interview.
   b. must be gained under the personal supervision and direction of a registered/licensed architect within Canada.
   c. must expose applicants to the practice and regulatory requirements of architecture in Canada.

### DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCE

Must demonstrate through their work experience how they meet the prescribed competencies that illustrate the role of an architect in accordance with the Canadian Standards of Practice.

### INTERVIEW

The applicant will be required to speak to their experience and bring their required documentation.

This is intended to provide the assessors an opportunity to further review the submission, obtain all necessary clarifications regarding applicant's experiences and knowledge, and better understand the extent of familiarity with areas of practice. Some applicants may be advised by CACB they need to complete further studies or attain further work experience

Rough cost to complete this path, not including cost of university education or annual membership fees, is between $5000-$8,000.

# NOTES ON DOMESTIC EDUCATION PATH

### ELIGIBILITY

Have graduated with a professional degree in architecture accredited by the *CACB* (one of the Canadian Accredited Universities).

Note for architects from the USA: There is a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between Canada and the USA in which all 11 of the Architectural Regulators in Canada and 41 of the U.S. Member Boards of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) are signatories. The MRA states that Architects holding an NCARB Certificate who are registered in and have their principal place of practice in a jurisdiction that has signed the Letter of Undertaking may transmit their NCARB Certificate Record to a jurisdiction/province provided that jurisdiction has also signed the Letter of Undertaking. Contact the board where you would like to be licensed to ensure that you meet their specific requirements. For more information visit the *NCARB website*.

### CACB CERTIFICATION

CACB certification is completed automatically if you have completed a program listed in the "Eligibility" section.

The CACB provides the schools with their graduates' CACB certificates to be handed out at Convocation.

For Graduates of CACB accredited university programs in Canada there is no cost for auto-certification

Costs associated with the Domestic Education path, not including cost of university education, include the registration and annual renewal as an intern architect under your provincial/territorial regulator and registration for the ExAC (see notes on right of this page).

For those who are considering this path but have not completed a masters degree from an accredited architecture program, refer to CACB website for list of Canadian universities offering accredited architectural degree programs. Refer to the university websites for program and cost information.

# NOTES ON IAP & ExAC

*IAP*: Internship in Architecture Program
*ExAC*: Examination for Architects in Canada

### IAP PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

You must have:
1. graduated with a professional degree/ diploma in architecture from a post-secondary institution, or have successfully completed the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) Syllabus Program
2. received certification of academic qualification from the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB)
3. meet other requirements of the specific regulator (for example, be a person of good character, per the regulator's "Architect Act")
4. submit a completed online application
5. pay the required fee.
6. have a mentor and have an eligible employment situation

### IAP PROGRAM (INTERNSHIP)

The IAP Program is inclusive of experience, examinations and maybe a mandatory course and/or interview (depending on the provincial/territorial regulator). Some provincial territorial regulators may also require interns to complete con-ed hours - check with your regulator for more information.

One must complete a minimum of hours of mandatory experience in specified areas of architectural practice, in an approved employment setting and under the supervision of a licensed architect and mentor. Number of hours and specifics of each category varies between provincial/territorial regulators. IAP program takes a minimum of 2 years to complete.

Annual fees and charges associated with the registration/ licensing process are established annually by each ROAC jurisdiction. for information contact your provincial/territorial regulator. First time registration and annual fees for interns is generally between $100-250 but note that the annual fee will increase to be the same as for architects (varies between $500-$1200) for some regulators for interns with 5+ years, or some pre-determine number of years, intern status*.

*OAA, MAA, SAA

### ExAC (PROFESSIONAL EXAMS)

The exams tests the minimum standards of competency acquired by an Intern during the Internship period, to ensure both public safety and the professional and skilled delivery of architectural services. Note that the program and ExAC are not distinct; the exams are part of the IAP program.

Cost to register for ExAC is around $920 (note cost may vary year to year).