



# Internship in Architecture

## Exam Comparison: ExAC vs NCARB ARE

All intern architects are required to complete an examination component in the Internship in Architecture program. Interns have a choice of writing either the Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC) or the National Council of Architectural Registration Board’s Architect Registration Examinations (NCARB ARE). This document is intended to briefly summarize the differences between these two exams to help interns decide on which examination to complete. Please visit the websites for each exam provider to learn more.

	<b>ExAC</b> www.exac.ca	<b>NCARB ARE</b> www.ncarb.org
<b>Eligibility</b>	An Intern Architect in good standing with a CACB certificate. Interns must have 2800 approved hours before the application deadline in July to qualify for the exam	Intern Architects can open an NCARB Record requesting authorization to begin scheduling exam divisions once registered in the IAP
<b>Administration</b>	Each provincial jurisdiction is responsible for overseeing the exam administration, registration, distributing results and handling general enquiries	Scheduling exams are done online through an NCARB Record account. Exams are administered at test centers. Results are then emailed directly to your jurisdiction
<b>Application Period</b>	June to mid-July	Ongoing throughout the year
<b>Examination Dates</b>	Once a year. The exam is written simultaneously across Canada over two days in early November.	Interns can schedule exams online any time throughout the year based on seat availability at test centers.
<b>Fees</b>	Refer to ExAC website for current fees. In 2017 this was \$920 + GST for all 4 sections and \$230 + GST for each individual section. Fees are in Canadian currency	In 2017, the cost to write all seven divisions of the ARE 4.0 is \$1470. For all six divisions of the ARE 5.0 it is \$1260. Each section is \$210. Fees are in US currency.
<b>Exam Format</b>	Pencil and paper written format. Questions are multiple choice and short answer	Computer administered. Multiple choice, fill in the blank, checklists, and graphic vignette questions
<b>Languages</b>	English and French	English

	ExAC www.exac.ca	NCARB ARE www.ncarb.org
<b>Exam Location</b>	Interns can write in any Canadian province. In BC, the location will be in downtown Vancouver. Other locations may also be scheduled based on demand (i.e. Victoria)	Exams can be scheduled at test centers within Canada, the USA or internationally
<b>Study Resources</b>	Refer to list of references and resources on the ExAC website; ExAC Preparation Guide; study groups with other interns	ARE Community through the NCARB website; NCARB ARE study guides
<b>Exam Divisions</b>	ExAC consists of four sections in total. Interns must write all sections for their first attempt	The transition between NCARB ARE 4.0 and 5.0 is in process. ARE 4.0 consists of seven divisions and the ARE 5.0 consists of six divisions. These can be written in any order
<b>Exam Length</b>	The exam is written over two consecutive days. Interns will sit two sections each day and each takes about three hours to complete	Varies between divisions; these may range from approximately three to five hours each
<b>Result Reporting</b>	Results are released in February after the exam is written. Scores are reported in a pass/fail format. General objectives are provided for unsuccessful sections as feedback on weak areas for improvement	Typically one week after the exam is written. Results are available through the online NCARB Record. Scores are provided in a pass/fail format with a detailed score report for unsuccessful divisions identifying weaknesses
<b>Rewrites</b>	Interns must write all four sections of the ExAC for their first sitting. If unsuccessful, they may enroll in any remaining sections the following year	Interns can retake a failed ARE division after 60 days from the test date. Rewrites for the same division are limited to three times a year
<b>Expiration</b>	Interns must complete all four sections of the ExAC within three consecutive years. If unsuccessful, they must rewrite all sections, including those previously passed	Passed scores are valid for an initial five-year window from the date the exam was written. If an intern is unable to complete all the ARE divisions within the expiration of this “rolling clock” they must retake that division again
<b>Average Pass Rates</b>	In BC, the average pass rate is about 83%	Please check the NCARB website for more data about national pass rates. These vary depending on each division and range between 47% - 67% (based on statistics for ARE 5.0)

	<b>ExAC</b> <a href="http://www.exac.ca">www.exac.ca</a>	<b>NCARB ARE</b> <a href="http://www.ncarb.org">www.ncarb.org</a>
<b>Reciprocity within Canada and USA</b>	Eligible to apply for initial registration in all Canadian jurisdictions. Once registered as an Architect AIBC, eligible to apply as an architect to any US state that is a signatory to the NCARB-CALA Mutual Recognition Agreement (as of January 1 2014).	Eligible to apply for initial registration in all Canadian jurisdictions. Once registered as an Architect AIBC, eligible to apply as an architect to any US state that is a signatory to the NCARB-CALA Mutual Recognition Agreement (as of January 1 2014).
<b>In Summary: Benefits</b>	<p>Canadian based content. Ideal for interns educated in Canada</p> <p>Interns with more practical experience will perform better on the exam (knowledge and experience based)</p> <p>If successful, can complete exam requirement in two days</p> <p>Easier to organize study groups and resources with other interns scheduled to do the exam in the same year</p> <p>Recognized across Canada.</p>	<p>American based content. Ideal for interns educated in the United States or have already started the exams there</p> <p>Can begin exam divisions immediately after registering as an Intern Architect</p> <p>Flexibility in scheduling and exam locations</p> <p>Faster turnaround time to receive results</p> <p>Re-takes can be scheduled relatively quickly</p> <p>Pay for exam fees by division as you schedule them</p>
<b>In Summary: Things to Consider</b>	<p>Offered once a year</p> <p>Must wait until the following year to re-write unsuccessful sections</p> <p>Interns must accumulate at least 2800 hours before the exam application deadline to be eligible for the exam</p> <p>For the initial exam attempt, must register and pay for all four sections at once</p>	<p>The number of divisions to complete and the constraints of the rolling clock can be time consuming and costly</p> <p>Requires self-discipline to study and schedule exams independently</p> <p>Sittings are dependent on exam center availability</p> <p>Must also pay a fee to open and maintain an NCARB Record</p>