



(Approved on November 11, 1996 by the OALA Council and by-law revisions of November 28, 2005 and amended by Council November 12, 2007, December 12, 2011 and March 9, 2020)

## MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATE OPTIONS

The Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) is a self-regulatory body created by legislation in the Province of Ontario to oversee the profession and to provide certification to landscape architects practicing in the province.

The legislation mandates the Association to establish and maintain standards of minimum competency in the knowledge skills and abilities of its full members. Eligibility of full membership applicants is based on an assessment of relevant membership, or education and, experience.

There are various options through which an individual may be eligible to apply for full membership in the Association. Applications are processed by the Examining Board or Panel of Examiners whose findings and recommendations are forwarded to the governing Council for approval. Following approval by the governing Council, findings and recommendations of the Examining Board or Panel of Examiners will be released to the applicant.

An applicant who has been denied eligibility for admission may re-apply to the Examining Board or Panel of Examiners on the basis of new information in support of the application.

An applicant who has been denied eligibility for admission by the Examining Board or Panel of Examiners may appeal a decision to the Governing Council.

Each option has specific eligibility criteria and subsequent admission requirements. To apply under any one of the options the applicant must first meet the eligibility requirements outlined and then satisfy the specific admission requirements prescribed for that option. All applicants may be required to appear before the Examining Board or Panel of Examiners for clarification purposes.

## ELIGIBILITY OPTIONS

- Option 1: Candidates with a Bachelor or Master degree in landscape architecture recognized by the OALA
- Option 3: Candidates with other qualifications such as:
  - A. Three year diploma in landscape architectural technology from Ryerson Polytechnic University (1972 – 2000) OR Bachelor of Architectural Science – Landscape Architecture Option from Ryerson Polytechnic University (2000 – 2003)
  - B. Extensive relevant professional experience
  - C. Other education
- Option 4: Candidates with equivalent membership in an equivalent Canadian organization and/or who are CLARB certified

## **Option 1: Bachelor or Master Degree in Landscape Architecture**

Persons who possess a bachelor or master of landscape architecture degree from an institution recognized\* by OALA are eligible to apply for associate status immediately upon graduation.

*(\*See Education Requirements for details on recognized degrees.)*

Candidates will:

- a) Submit a completed application form with the required documentation and fees as outlined on the application form;
- b) Have the endorsement of one OALA full member;
- c) Have current employment in the field.

Candidates who meet these eligibility requirements will be accepted by the Association as associates. They will be assigned a minimum two (2) year period in the OALA's professional development program (PDP).

Associates are eligible to apply for full membership with Certificate upon:

- a) Completion of the professional development program;
- b) Completion of the independent study course on Ontario legislation and professional practice; and
- c) Passing a minimum of three sections of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) .

For admission to full membership with certificate, candidates will:

- a) Submit a completed application with the required documentation and fees as outlined on the application form;
- b) Have the endorsement of two OALA full members.

Associates are eligible to apply for full membership with certificate and seal upon:

- a) Completion of the professional development program;
- b) Completion of the independent study course on Ontario legislation and professional practice; and
- c) Passing all sections of the LARE.

For admission to full membership with certificate and seal, candidates will:

- a) Submit a completed application with the required documentation and fees as outlined on the application form;
- b) Have the endorsement of two OALA full members.

Candidates who meet these admission requirements will be accepted as Full Members in the Association.

### **Option 3: Candidates with other qualifications**

**A. Three year diploma in landscape architectural technology from Ryerson Polytechnic University (1972 – 2000);  
OR Bachelor of Architectural Science – Landscape Architecture Option from Ryerson Polytechnic University (2000 – 2003)**

Persons possessing a three-year diploma in landscape architectural technology from Ryerson Polytechnic University or Bachelor of Architectural Science – Landscape Architecture Option from Ryerson Polytechnic University are eligible to apply for associate status immediately upon graduation. Candidates will:

- a) Submit a completed application with the required documentation and fees as outlined on the application form;
- b) Have the endorsement of one OALA full member;
- c) Have current employment in the field.

Candidates who meet these eligibility requirements will be accepted by the Association as associates. They will be assigned a minimum (4) four year period in OALA's professional development program (PDP).

Associates are eligible to apply for full membership with certificate upon:

- a) Completion of the professional development program;
- b) Completion of the independent study course on Ontario legislation and professional practice; and
- c) Passing a minimum of three sections of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE).

For admission to full membership with certificate candidates will:

- a) Submit a completed application with the required documentation and fees as outlined on the application form
- b) Have the endorsement of two OALA full members.

Associates are eligible to apply for full membership with certificate and seal upon:

- a) Completion of the professional development program;
- b) Completion of the independent study course on Ontario legislation and professional practice; and
- c) Passing all sections of the LARE.

For admission to full membership with certificate and seal, candidates will:

- a) Submit a completed application with the required documentation and fees as outlined on the application form
- b) Have the endorsement of two OALA full members.

Candidates who meet these admission requirements will be accepted as Full Members of the Association.

## **B. Extensive relevant professional experience - separate application 3b**

Persons who have a minimum of twelve (12) years of progressively responsible landscape architecture experience in a professional environment, who possess either a bachelor or master of landscape architecture degree from an institution recognized by OALA, or a three-year diploma in landscape architectural technology from Ryerson Polytechnic University, are considered to be senior practitioners, and are eligible to apply for full membership.

For admission to full membership, candidates will:

- a) Submit a completed application (3b) with the required documentation and fees as outlined on the application form;
- b) Have the endorsement of two OALA full members (see full application for details);
- c) Complete the independent study course on Ontario legislation and professional practice;
- d) Pass OALA's senior practitioner examination.

Candidates who meet these admission requirements will be accepted as full members in the Association.

## **C. Other education**

Persons who possess other related degrees, diplomas, and who have a minimum of four (4) years of relevant professional landscape architectural experience post-graduation, are eligible to apply for **associate status**.

Candidates will:

- a) Submit a completed application with the required documentation and fees as outlined on the application form;
- b) Have the endorsement of one OALA full member;
- c) Have current employment in the field;

Candidates who meet these eligibility requirements will be accepted by the Association as associates. They will be assessed individually to determine the length of their professional development program (PDP) with the minimum length of the PDP being four (4) years, and the maximum, seven (7) years. **No reduction in the assigned PDP will be permitted.**

Associates are eligible to apply for full membership with Certificate upon:

- a) Completion of the professional development program;
- b) Completion of the independent study course on Ontario legislation and professional practice; and
- c) Passing a minimum of three sections of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE).

For admission to full membership with certificate, candidates will:

- a) Submit a completed application with the required documentation and fees as outlined on the application form;
- b) Have the endorsement of two OALA full members.

Associates are eligible to apply for full membership with certificate and seal upon:

- a) Completion of the professional development program;
- b) Completion of the independent study course on Ontario legislation and professional practice; and
- c) Passing all sections of the LARE.

For admission to full membership with Seal and Certificate, candidates will:

- a) Submit a completed application with the required documentation and fees as outlined on the application form;
- b) Have the endorsement of two OALA full members.

Candidates who meet these admission requirements will be accepted as full members in the Association.

#### **Option 4: Candidates with equivalent membership in an equivalent Canadian organization and/or who are CLARB certified**

Persons who are certified full members (or equivalent) in an organization equivalent to the OALA and recognized by the OALA are eligible to apply for full membership. These organizations are:

- Member boards of the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB)

For admission to full membership candidates will:

- a) Submit a completed application with the required documentation and fees as outlined on the application form;
- b) Provide written verification from the relevant professional body that they are a full member or equivalent in good standing;
- c) Provide documentation from CLARB or their professional member board that they have passed a minimum of three sections of the LARE;
- d) Have the endorsement of two OALA members **OR** provide CLARB certification and the endorsement of one full member from their member Board;
- e) Complete the independent study course on Ontario legislation and professional practice:

Candidates who meet these admission requirements will be accepted as full members of the Association and be issued a certificate of membership. If the applicant possesses an association seal issued by the home jurisdiction, they will qualify for a seal from the OALA.

## Education Requirements:

An accredited Bachelor or Master of Landscape Architecture is required to qualify for some options. Accredited degrees are those accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Council (LAAC) in Canada or the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) in the United States. To see a list of accredited degrees please contact:

1. Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) for Canadian accredited programs:  
<https://www.csla-aapc.ca/society/landscape-architecture-accreditation-council>
2. Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards (CLARB) or American Society of Landscape Architecture (ASLA) for American accredited programs:  
<https://www.asla.org/schools.aspx>

## Other Degrees:

For applicants who do not possess an accredited degree, determination of the professional degree and foreign professional membership equivalency to fulfil the OALA standards must be established through one of the following contacts:

- Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials
- International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)
- World Education Services Canada (WES): International Credential Evaluation.

The onus rests with the applicant to produce documents that establish the core academic and professional membership body equivalency in writing.

Only after these credentials have been accepted as equivalent to an accredited degree by the Examining Board can the applicant proceed with either the PDP/ LARE exam stream of approval or the Senior Oral Examination process. In both cases, evidence-based working experience both in Canada and abroad requires fulsome documentation.

## Experience requirements:

It is recommended that applicants should be an associate or affiliate members of the OALA for a minimum of 1-2 years prior to commencing the full membership process. Familiarity with provincial and regional landscape conditions for design and construction, and local regulations and legal site planning requirements is a prerequisite.