

The Tri-National Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for international practice is a multi-stage process that includes an application, submission of a dossier, a dossier review, and an interview. If you are a U.S. architect interested in applying for reciprocal registration in Mexico or Canada through the Tri-National MRA, please follow the steps below.

Getting Started

☐ STEP 1: Review Eligibility Requirements

Under the terms of the Tri-National Mutual Recognition Agreement for International Practice between Canada, Mexico, and the United States, you must meet specific [eligibility](#) requirements below.

- A. The applicant must have an NCARB Certificate and be a citizen of the United States or hold permanent residency status.
- B. The NCARB Certificate holder must hold a current and active registration as an architect in an NCARB jurisdiction and shall demonstrate a period of TEN years of post-licensure experience, at least two years of which must be in responsible control of the comprehensive practice of architecture.
- C. The NCARB Certificate holder must complete the [Tri-National MRA Resume Form](#) that outlines the practice experience in the home jurisdiction and lists the projects the architect will include in the dossier.
- D. The NCARB Certificate holder must submit a dossier conforming with the [Tri-National Dossier Format Requirements](#) documenting a minimum of three projects that demonstrate competence in the practice of architecture.

☐ STEP 2: Review Program Requirements

The steps of the program are outlined in the [Program Requirements](#).

☐ STEP 3: Notify NCARB of Interest

[Contact](#) NCARB to express interest in the Tri-National MRA or for more information about beginning the Tri-National application process.

☐ STEP 4: Update NCARB Record

Architects are required to have an active license in a [U.S. jurisdiction](#), an active and up-to-date [NCARB Record](#), and an [NCARB Certificate](#) prior to applying.

☐ STEP 5: Complete Application Form

Complete and submit the [Tri-National Application Form](#) to NCARB and request a [Letter of Good Standing](#) from your licensing jurisdiction. This letter must be submitted in English, and your licensing board should send the letter directly to NCARB to the attention of:

NCARB
Policy + International Relations Department
Tri-National MRA Program
1401 H Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

Or email mra@ncarb.org

☐ STEP 6: Eligibility Review

After the application form and letter of good standing have been received and reviewed, you will be notified in writing of the next steps.

Dossier

☐ STEP 1: Complete [Resume Form](#)

Download and complete the resume form from the website, and include it as the first document in your dossier.

☐ STEP 2: Complete Competency Areas

Complete each of the three forms related to the [competencies](#) required by the agreement and include them in your dossier. Review the [Program Information](#) document and the Tri-National User Guide for specific dossier preparation and format requirements. Please be advised that although some forms are available in other languages for your reference, all documents must be submitted in the host country's language and English unless otherwise noted.

☐ STEP 3: Submit Dossier to NCARB

The dossier must be submitted via email to mra@ncarb.org in PDF format and appropriately bookmarked. Large files must be transferred using a file-sharing service. NCARB will complete a preliminary review before documents are sent to the host country.

☐ STEP 4: Dossier Review

Dossiers that meet the initial format and submission requirements are reviewed by a panel of architects from the host country to determine if the architect's experience satisfies the competencies. Once the review panel approves the dossier, you will be invited for an interview. If the review panel determines that the dossier does not adequately satisfy the program requirements, you will be informed of the review panel's decision. You may then elect to pay additional dossier review fee and revise and resubmit the dossier for further consideration.

Interview

☐ Interview Process

Following acceptance of your dossier, the host country of Canada or Mexico will contact you to schedule an interview. Your interview will be conducted in the language of the host country without the assistance of a translator. You will be responsible for all expenses related to travel and accommodation. During the interview, the panel will have the opportunity to clarify any outstanding concerns and to verify the following:

- Responsibility over the development, management, and implementation of each submitted project
- Understanding of the host jurisdiction's licensing and professional conduct requirements
- Knowledge of the host jurisdiction's building codes and laws
- Ability to effectively communicate competence in the language of the host country.

Licensure

Once you have completed the Tri-National program and have paid all fees, the host jurisdiction will provide information on obtaining reciprocal licensure and credential recognition in the host country. An active license in the country of origin and an updated letter of good standing may be required at the completion of the program.

You must obtain licensure in at least one jurisdiction of the host country within one year of successfully completing the program. Upon licensure, you are responsible for complying with local regulations for the practice of architecture in the host country; such as local laws and regulations, ethics, professional liability insurance, continuing education, and license renewal.

Fees

Fees for completing the Tri-Nation MRA process are payable to the national regulatory authority of the host country and are subject to change.

- Dossier Review: \$2,500
- Interview: \$5,000

Additional fees may be assessed by the individual state, provincial, or territorial authorities for initial licensure and license renewal.

Glossary

Credentialing Authority: Organization or entity that issues and regulates credentials to lawfully practice architecture.

NCARB Certificate: A credential that indicates the Record holder meets the national standards for licensure.

NCARB Record: Detailed, verified account of the applicant's education, experience, and examination history.

Home Country: Country in which the applicant holds a valid license to practice architecture.

Host Country: Country in which the applicant seeks licensure.

Jurisdiction: Entity that issues licenses to practice architecture in a region.

Practice of Architecture refers to an architect being registered/licensed to design buildings for human habitation without limit as to type, size, or cost of construction

Registration/license/credential: Official document that confirms ability to lawfully practice architecture for a specific region or country

Responsible Control: Refers to that amount of control over and detailed knowledge of the content of architectural technical submissions during their preparation as is ordinarily exercised by registered/licensed architects in the host jurisdiction applying the required standard of care.