

JVS Toronto - December 17, 2012 - Ivan Martinovic, OAA, MRAIC

The Broadly Experienced Foreign Architects (BEFA) Program Overview

**a national program in Canada to assess the competencies of
internationally trained and licensed architects**

Eligibility

1. Architecture education / degree
2. Registration as an architect in a foreign jurisdiction
3. Seven years experience of post-registration in last ten years
4. Six months of Canadian architectural work experience

Background

The 11 provincial / territorial regulators are responsible for:

- Registration and / or licensure of individuals (and firms) to practice
- Statutory mandate to set certification (registration) and accreditation (education) standards
- Regulation of the entry streams into the profession for domestic architects – Education, Experience & Examination
- Administration of Continuing Education programs

Canadian regulators have a reciprocity agreement to accept members from other provinces.

Inception of the BEFA Program

- In 2010, Canadian regulators recognized that no national program was in place for assessing the credentials of architects who were trained abroad and duly licensed to practise architecture in other parts of the world.
- With federal funding from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, the regulators spent two years developing a fair and streamlined program to assess the work experience and competencies of foreign architects against pan-Canadian standards of competency for practice in Canada.

Development of Outcomes- Based Assessment Tool

“The Matrix”

- Regulators recognized that credentials-based assessment programs in place were not sufficiently flexible/responsive for foreign trained and licensed architects.
- Development of a competency-based assessment program needed to meet the federal Pan Canadian principles of fairness, accessibility, transparency, coherency and rigor.

The Matrix

Competency Area

Wight in Assessment

1.	Programming	3%
2.	Site & Environmental Analysis	5%
3.	Schematic Design	12%
4.	Engineering Systems	8%
5.	Building Cost Analysis	3%
6.	Code Research	10%
7.	Design Development	12%
8.	Construction Documents	18%
9.	Bidding & Contract Negotiation	4%
10.	Construction Phase - Office & Site	18%
11.	Management of the Project	3%
12.	Professionalism & Professional	4%

Framework of BEFA Program

To receive BEFA certification, applicants must follow a three-step process:

1. a review of individual's eligibility to apply,
2. the completion of an on-line assessment tool, and
3. an interview with a panel of registered architects.

Within this process there is a built-in opportunities for remedial action and appeal.

BEFA Online Application System



BEFA Broadly Experienced
FOREIGN ARCHITECTS PROGRAM

BEFA Online Application

Welcome to the Broadly Experienced Foreign Architects (BEFA) Program on-line application.

Click on the Start button below to reach the registration and login page.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the BEFA coordinator at befacoord@cacb.ca.

Please press the Start button to proceed.

START

Step 1 - Eligibility

The eligibility criteria:

- an architecture education / degree,
- registration / licensure as an architect in a foreign jurisdiction,
- demonstration of seven years experience of post-registration / licensure experience in architecture within the last ten years, and
- a minimum of six months of relevant Canadian architectural work experience under the supervision and direction of a licensed architect.

Step 2 – Self- Assessment

- The self assessment step requires an applicant to provide information for each of the Matrix' 12 competencies and to upload supporting documentation.
- Applicants must evaluate his/her knowledge and experience in relation to each competency, and then assign a score based on the Bloom's levels.
- The portfolios submitted with the narratives must include projects that the applicant was directly involved with.
- A panel of three trained assessors, who are architects, will be assigned to review an applicant's portfolio in anticipation of interview.
- The panel may request additional documentation.

Step 3 – The Interview

- The three assessors independently review portfolio and provide written commentary.
- Once the review is completed, assessors see each others comments and discuss the submission.
- Applicant is interviewed by the same three assessors.
- Applicant bring to the interview three projects (in hard copy format) to support their application.
- Following the interview, the panel provides applicant with feedback.

Post Interview

- The panel provides its decision in writing to the CACB.
- The CACB advises the applicant of the decision in writing. If successful, a BEFA certificate is issued.
- The applicant may now apply for registration / licensure in the jurisdiction where he / she intends to practice.
- If remedial action is required to address a specific competency, the CACB will advise the applicant in writing.

For more information regarding the **BEFA** program contact:

BEFA Coordinator

Canadian Architectural Certification Board

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