

# The Manitoba Association of Landscape Architects Inc.

Revision – January 2024

## Experience Record Book OVERVIEW

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Any person aspiring to become a Member of the Manitoba Association of Landscape Architects (MALA) must first complete a two (2) year minimum internship, with the exception of persons who are accredited full members of an equivalent professional association of landscape architects. Individuals who have not completed an accredited degree in Landscape Architecture will be required to complete a Pre-Internship period prior to entering the Internship Program. The length of the program varies dependent on applicants' experience and education. **Refer to Table 1 Path to Registration** to determine the stream for which you are qualified.

Work experience during the Pre-Internship and Internship period is to be documented in the **Experience Record Book (ERB) Experience Summary and Worksheet**. Please refer to the following documents for further clarification: **MALA Policy - Experience Record Book Requirements** and **MALA Policy - Professional Advisor**. These policies, as well as additional **ERB** pages (revised 2024), may be downloaded from MALA's website, [www.mala.net](http://www.mala.net).

Interns are required to obtain a balance of experience totalling at least 3600 hours. The Pre-Internship hours required vary dependent on the stream for which you are qualified, as determined in Table 1. **Refer to Table 2 Experience Record Book Hour Requirements** for hours required in each category.

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### COMPLETING THE ERB

It is expected that candidates for Member of MALA have experience in all subcategories laid out in the ERB Experience Summary. The Professional Advisor will use their judgment in interpreting what is applicable landscape architectural practice. In recognizing different types of landscape architectural experience, hours toward 'specialized' practice can be recorded in the ERB Summary under 'Other Experience'. Examples of potential specializations are listed below. These are only a selection of potential areas of specialization. Descriptions of areas of practice are also provided in this document.

Interns and Pre-Interns are strongly urged to consult with their Professional Advisor at any time during their internship / pre-internship period to ensure their work experience will be considered.

#### Specialization List

- Planning
- Management
- Regional landscape planning
- Land development planning
- Ecological planning and design
- Heritage conservation
- Landscape reclamation and restoration
- Social / behavioral aspects of landscape design
- Consulting services
- Cultural resource management

## Descriptions

MALA's definition of landscape architecture and the descriptions of current landscape architectural practice below, will assist the candidate in the completion of the ERB.

**Landscape Architecture** is the profession which applies knowledge of the earth's natural systems and human cultures to the planning, design and management of sustainable urban and rural developments. Its goals are to promote attitudes of respect, care and responsibility in conserving the landscapes of our heritage and understanding the physical and cultural environments in which new places are created.

**Landscape design**, the historical core of the profession, is concerned with detailed space design for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and public areas. It involves site analysis, development of design concepts, the shaping of spaces, the balance of hard and soft surfaces in indoor and outdoor spaces, the selection of construction and plant materials, and the preparation of detailed construction plans, contract documents and contract administration. It may also involve maintenance planning, and post-construction analysis.

**Site planning** focuses on the physical design and arrangement of the built and natural elements of a land parcel. It deals with a wide range of technical aspects such as circulation patterns, utility layout, siting of buildings and creating areas for human use. A site planning project can involve a range of scales, from designing the landscape for a single house, an office complex or shopping centre, to an entire community. Sensitive site design produces developments that minimize both environmental impacts and project costs, while adding value to a site.

**Urban design** deals with the design of cities and towns. This field also involves the development of open public spaces, such as plazas and streetscapes. As urban designers, landscape architects set standards, development guidelines and create designs.

**Regional landscape planning** has emerged as a major area of practice for many landscape architects since the rise of environmentalism in the 1970s. In this field, landscape architects deal with the full range of planning and management of land and water, including natural resource surveys, creation and protection of habitats, wetlands, and other natural environments.

**Land development planning** involves undeveloped land and provides a bridge between policy planning and individual development projects. Landscape Architects working in this area have knowledge of real estate economics and development regulation processes, as well as an understanding of the constraints of working with the land. Landscape architects often head multi-disciplinary project teams that integrate economic factors with good design to create quality environments for human use.

**Ecological planning and design** involves the study of the interaction between people and the natural environment and the formulation of design policies, guidelines and plans to ensure the suitability of a site for development and guidance of environmentally sound development, including bio-engineering practices.

**Heritage conservation** provides a link between past, present and future uses of land and historic sites. Landscape architects working in this area undertake historical research, analyze contemporary needs, and recommend stabilization, restoration, adaptation, and interpretation of landscapes to accommodate human use and ensure protection of cultural resources.

**Landscape reclamation and restoration** is a growing area of practice for landscape architects. This field involves reclaiming disturbed landscapes such as gravel pits and landfill sites, creating habitats, wetlands, and other natural environments, or public open space for recreational or other uses.

**Social / behavioral aspects of landscape design** focus on the human dimensions of design, such as meeting the special needs of the elderly or persons with disabilities and understanding how people respond to and use a landscape.

**Consulting services**, involves providing expert testimony, facilitating project implementation, including leading approvals processes and public participation.

**Cultural resource management** is the practice of managing and preserving cultural heritage. Cultural heritage includes the legacy of physical artifacts such as buildings, monuments, artwork, archaeological remains, cultural landscapes, historic places, etc. and the intangible attributes of a society, such as traditions, customs and practices, rituals, spiritual beliefs, language, artistic expressions and other aspects of human activity.

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