

Factsheet #2



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ACTRA Apprentice Members' Advantage

ACTRA Apprentice Program

ACTRA's apprentice program allows performers who are new to ACTRA to work on ACTRA sets and earn credits toward full ACTRA membership.

What is ACTRA and why should I join?

ACTRA is the union representing professional performers in the English-language recorded media in Canada. Our members work in films, television programs, radio and television commercials as well as digital media. To join ACTRA you must be a **Canadian citizen or landed immigrant**.

- ACTRA negotiates and enforces agreements with producers, studios, television, radio and cable networks that set out minimum fees and working conditions for performers.
- ACTRA ensures members have a safe work environment.
- ACTRA ensures members are paid for their work on set or in studio and also for the use of the recorded performance.
- ACTRA administers an industry-leading insurance and retirement plan for performers.
- ACTRA provides training and professional development opportunities.
- ACTRA ensures that sets remain professional places to work.

ACTRA members promise to **defend our negotiated collective agreements**, without undercutting them or working on non-union productions.

How do I qualify?

To be eligible, you must earn a qualifying credit. A **qualifying credit is: an engagement as a performer in a residual category under an ACTRA Agreement**.

The AABP Credit

ACTRA Additional Background Performer (AABP) members with documented proof of **200 Background (BG) days or 1,600 BG hours** on ACTRA sets as an AABP member in good standing, may apply to the Apprentice Program.

Note: The 15 BG days used to qualify for your AABP membership count towards the

ACTRA Toronto has more than 15,000 members and is the largest organization within ACTRA (Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists). As an advocate for Canadian culture since 1943, ACTRA continues to secure the rights and respect for the work of professional performers.

200 days/1,600 hours required for the AABP Credit. (See ACTRA Additional Background Performers brochure)

Recent Graduate Credit and Education Credit

If you graduated from an ACTRA-recognized, publicly-funded and accredited degree/diploma/certificate granting institution with a concentration in acting performance, you may be eligible to receive a first qualifying credit and join the ACTRA Apprentice program. New grads should apply within **60 days of graduation.**

What are the fees?

An annual Apprentice **Administration Fee of \$75** must be paid when you register and on or before the expiry date on your Apprentice Membership card in order to maintain your Apprentice Membership status. **Attending the Apprentice Orientation Session is also required when you join ACTRA.**

How do Apprentices become Full Members?

Apprentices need a total of **three qualifying credits** to become Full Members of ACTRA. There is no time limit to earn these credits, so long as you maintain your

Apprentice membership by paying the annual Apprentice Administration Fee.

All applicants for Full Membership who are 16 or older must attend and complete the **ACTRA Toronto Full Member Session.** The course costs \$200 and is available throughout the year. For more information contact Member Education at me@actratoronto.com or visit actratoronto.com for dates of upcoming Full Member Sessions.

NOTE: According to ACTRA's Constitution, Apprentice Members must apply for full membership status at the same time they apply for their last qualifying permit. Failure to do so will result in their Apprentice membership file being closed. Should the Performer wish to apply for Apprentice membership again in the future, the previous qualifying work permits will not apply.

Accordingly, when you purchase your third work permit you will be asked to complete a Full Member Application Form, pay your initiation fee and annual basic dues (pro-rated to the current month).

Apprentice Permits and Fees

The cost of a work permit depends on the role and the agreement. **Apprentice**

members do not pay dues until they become Full ACTRA Members. Permit fees are tax deductible, so keep your receipts.

Apprentice Member Advantages

Apprentice Members can participate in ratification votes on ACTRA agreements, and may serve on ACTRA Toronto's various committees. Apprentice members **do not have voting rights in elections and can't hold elected positions** at ACTRA Toronto.

Apprentices are encouraged to attend ACTRA Toronto's free member conferences and take advantage of discounts available to ACTRA members.

Apprentices are protected by ACTRA's collective agreements and benefit from the union's negotiating power with producers that results in better wages and working conditions, improved job opportunities and better protection.

When an Apprentice Member becomes a Full ACTRA Member, the performer RSP contributions paid to ACTRA Fraternal Benefit Society (AFBS) over the previous two years will be credited to the member's record.