

Exam Prep Course FAQ

Q: Is it possible to register just for the exam, without the prep course, or just the prep course, without taking the exam?

A: No, the only current option is to take the package. We feel this prep course will be very useful to any participant, and we want you to pass. We've made this course as affordable as possible - the cost of sitting the exam alone in Germany (no materials and no prep course) is close to \$600 – and you have to get to Germany!

Q: Can I register right away for the prep course, but sit the exam in October or December?

A: Sorry, no. If you plan to take the exam in October, then registration for the prep course/exam package will open 2 months before this. Likewise with the December exam. This keeps things manageable for us from an administrative point of view.

Q: What format is the prep course?

A: The material is divided into 8 sections, with a video for each – this consists of some narrated Powerpoint slides highlighting the most important material to be aware of for the exam, followed by self-study questions and solutions. We stress that you have to sit down and work through these questions yourself – this is ultimately the only way to develop sufficient confidence and competence to pass the exam.

Q: Can anyone sit the exam?

A: You need to have completed a full Passive House training course to register, either CanPHI's course or an equivalent (not a one-day course). We feel the emphasis here should be on fully understanding the theory and practice of Passive House design, not merely picking up a qualification. There is a lot to learn and the exam is a difficult challenge for *all* participants.

Q: How much time does the prep course take for studying?

A: There are 50% more questions than we were able to cover in the 2-day classroom prep courses in Ottawa in 2013, so it's a lot of material. You don't have to complete all the questions, but those that get through most of them should have no problem with the exam.

Q: What if I have questions about the study material?

A: The e-learning site includes a Forum for questions from any participant, and the instructor will post answers for all to access. If you have trouble accessing the Forum or posting questions just email them to malcolm@passivehouse.ca and I'll make sure they get posted in the right place.

Q: Are there any other fees payable after the exam, or annual fees for the Designer license?

A: No, the prep course/exam fee covers everything for a period of 5 years. CanPHI's goal is to make qualification as accessible and affordable as possible, to support and encourage the Passive House movement in Canada and the US.

[Q: What if I fail the exam?](#)

A: CanPHI will allow you to re-sit at any future date, plus have access to the prep course once more, for \$275+ GST, which covers most of our direct costs.

[Q: What is the pass rate for this exam?](#)

A: PHI does not release overall data, but we believe the pass rate internationally is somewhere between 60 – 70%. Here in Canada, the result from CanPHI's 2013 exams in Ottawa was an overall pass rate of 88%, significantly higher than the international average.