

National Instruments Certification

Frequently Asked Questions

What is National Instruments Certification?

The NI Certification program identifies people with a high level of skill and knowledge with National Instruments' products. It allows individuals to document their competency, enables integrators to differentiate themselves, and provides guidance to allow companies to make informed hiring and outsourcing decisions.

Why should I become certified?

Certification shows commitment to achieving and maintaining a high level of ability with National Instruments products and an understanding of measurement and testing applications. In addition to validating your technical skills, certification allows engineers and integration companies to differentiate themselves when competing for projects. NI Certification is a professional program built on a firm instructional foundation, and is a highly credible method for both individuals and employers to identify persons for hiring and promotion.

What certifications are available?

- Certified LabVIEW Associate Developer (CLAD)
- Certified LabVIEW Developer (CLD)
- Certified LabVIEW Architect (CLA)
- Certified LabWindows/CVI Developer (CCVID)
- Certified TestStand Developer (CTD)
- Certified TestStand Architect (CTA)
- Certified Professional Instructor (CPI)

What is the difference between Associate, Developer and Architect?

There are three levels of certification:

Associate Developer: demonstrates foundational knowledge of the product

Developer: demonstrates advanced knowledge and experience with a particular product

Architect: demonstrates mastery of a particular product

The Associate Developer certification represents a foundation professional skill level in the design, development and maintenance of Measurement and Automation software applications. Technical competency at this certification level is ensured through a multiple choice exam.

A Certified Developer is able to demonstrate advanced knowledge and application development experience for implementing Measurement and Automation software applications. Technical proficiency with the product line is ensured through a practical exam.

A Certified Architect has mastered not only the technical aspects of the product, but can implement the most efficient solution in a team environment. A Certified Architect is the highest level of certification available from National Instruments, and signifies the ability to lead complex projects from conception through completion.

What is the Certified Professional Instructor (CPI) certification?

The CPI certification enables National Instruments to assess the ability of instructors at its Certified Training Centers. Used in conjunction with a Developer or Architect Certification, the Instructor Certification establishes a high standard for instructors teaching National Instrument's approved courses.

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Instructor Certification is only issued to individuals who work for companies that operate National Instruments Certified Training Centers. On rare occasions NI may award Instructor Certification to individuals at private corporations. This option is at the sole discretion of National Instruments. This certification is not available to individuals who wish to promote non-NI approved courses under the guise of being NI Certified.

How do I become certified?

The documents for becoming certified are located on www.ni.com/training and click on “Certification Overview”.

Certified Associate Developer Exam:

1. Review the “Requirements and Conditions” document for the rules pertaining to the CLAD certification. This document is the agreement between you and National Instruments pertaining to certification.
2. Follow the “Certification Overview” link on www.ni.com/training to the Pearson Vue web site or visit www.vue.com.
3. Follow the instructions under the “Candidate Services” tab to schedule an exam closest to your location.
4. Optional: Review training materials and practice exams.
5. Take the exam at the test center at the scheduled date and time.
6. You will receive your results on completion of the exam.
7. If you are successful, you will receive your certificate within 4 weeks.

Certified Developer and Certified Architect Exams:

1. Review the associated “Requirements and Conditions” document for the rules pertaining to that credential. This document is the agreement between you and National Instruments pertaining to certification.
2. Complete the “Agreement” to acknowledge your acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of the National Instruments Certification Program.
3. Fax the Agreement to (512) 683- 6899.
4. Register for an exam via the website at ni.com/training, or contact an NI Representative toll free at (800) 890-2062.
5. You will receive confirmation of your registration 2-3 business days after enrolling.
6. You will receive your examination results in the mail approximately within 4 weeks after your examination date.

What languages are the exams available in?

Certification examinations are currently offered only in English and Japanese and Korean.

Can I become certified if I don’t live in the United States?

For Europe, the CLAD exam can be taken at a Pearson VUE test center. Please go to www.vue.com to locate a test center closest to you can schedule an exam.

For Asia, the CLAD exam will be scheduled and administered by your local branch office. Please contact your sales representative or the National Instruments branch office to schedule the exam.

For all other certifications, if you are outside the US and Canada, please contact your local NI office about your interest in NI certification.

How many exams must I take to gain certification?

Currently, there is only one exam per certification.

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The Associate Developer exam must be passed before the Developer-level exam can be attempted.

The Developer-level exam must be passed before the Architect-level exam can be attempted.

Where can I take the exam?

The Associate level exam will be administered via a Pearson Vue test center.

The Developer and Architect level exams are administered at NI branch offices, Certified Training Centers, or hotel locations. To locate an exam location near you, go to www.ni.com/training and click on “Register Now”. At the next page, click on the map of the US or Canada. Select the certification exam you wish to take from the pull down menu titled “First Course”. A list of scheduled exams will be presented to you.

How long is my certification valid?

Each certification has a two-year renewal requirement. At these two-year intervals, additional examinations will be required. Continuing your certification requires that you successfully pass all evaluations required within the time frame specified. Please refer to the recertification policies document on www.ni.com/training for more details.

What feedback do I get from my examination?

Results for the Associate Developer exam will be available from the test center upon completion of the exam.

The Developer and Architect certification exams are graded in Austin, Texas, at the National Instruments headquarters. Exam results are recorded on an Evaluation Record, which provides detailed grading results and follow-up areas for review. The completed exam are not returned to the candidate, nor is the candidate allowed to retain a copy of the exam.

What happens if I fail the exam?

You will be allowed two attempts per certification level. If you are unsuccessful at both the attempts you will have to wait 6 months before re-attempting the certification exam at that level. You may re-take a certification exam at any time.

For the Developer and Architect level exam, you will be notified by mail that your results were not adequate to pass the examination. You will receive an Evaluation Record that provides details of your examination. Examination results are final, and are not subject to further review. All re-take exams are charged at full price.

How do I study for the exam?

1. Each certification area has a list of Exam Topics that define the knowledge and skill requirements for that area. The Exam Topics are linked to Tasks that define abilities a certified individual must possess for certification in that area. The Exam Topics detail the skills and knowledges that enable an individual to perform the task. A certification exam will contain questions based on a representative sample of the Exam Topics. In order to be ready for a certification exam, you should be comfortable with the Exam Topics. Where Topics have bulleted items, those items define the scope of that Topic. In other words, the intent of that Exam Topic is limited to what is covered by the bulleted statements.
2. For each certification, National Instruments recommends reviewing the appropriate NI training course material as listed below. These materials can assist your preparation efforts, but may not directly address all topics included in the certification exams.

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Certification

Certified LabVIEW Associate Developer
Certified LabVIEW Developer
Certified LabVIEW Architect
Certified LabWindows/CVI Developer
Certified TestStand Developer

Recommended Training Course Materials

LabVIEW Basics I and II
LabVIEW Intermediate I and II
LabVIEW Advanced Application Development
LabWindows/CVI Basics I and II
TestStand Basics I and II

3. Additionally, NI recommends practicing the sample exams that are available for most certifications. For the CLAD certification, NI recommends the [LabVIEW Fundamentals Exam](#) as a free, online, preparatory tool. For the Developer and Architect exams, sample exams are available from the “Certification Overview” link on www.ni.com/training

Must I take courses to be eligible for a certification examination?

No. NI courses provide knowledge and skills required on the examinations, however they are not required, and taking courses cannot guarantee that you will pass the examination.

What resources can I use during the exam?

The Associate level exam is a closed book exam and no reference materials / computers (other than the testing computer) will be allowed at the test center during the exam.

For the Developer and Architect level exam resources are limited to a PC with the applicable software loaded on it. No other resources are allowed. The list of banned items includes, but is not limited to:

- Notes, either written or electronic
- Any person, including the proctor (telephone use is prohibited)
- Any on-line resources

In general, any activities or items that may allow the candidate to circumvent the intent of the exam are not allowed.

What happens if I am involved in any disallowed activities during the exam?

Your exam will be confiscated and you will no longer be eligible for NI certification. Eligibility is at the discretion of National Instruments, and is not subject to review.

How difficult are the exams?

The Associate Developer level exam requires you to demonstrate foundational knowledge and skill in the use of the product. It is recommended that you either take the NI courses associated with the certification area, or have knowledge equivalent to those courses. Please refer to the Exam topics for CLAD on www.ni.com/traning for more details.

Before you attempt the CLAD exam, you can evaluate your knowledge by taking the free, online exam, the [LabVIEW Fundamentals Exam](#). Note that the CLAD exam covers more topics than the LabVIEW fundamentals exam,

The Developer-level exams require proficiency with the product. It is recommended that you either take the NI courses associated with the certification area, or have knowledge equivalent to those courses. In addition, it is highly recommended that you have experience using the knowledge presented in those courses.

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The Architect-level exams require a mastery of almost every aspect of a complex application. This may include the creation of use cases, unstructured code reviews, creation of coding standards, and ensuring that a team of application developers are coordinated in their efforts. Architect candidates are strongly encouraged to have a minimum of four years of experience in designing large applications with complex requirements.

How long are the exams?

The Associate Developer level exam's duration is 60 minutes (40 questions)

The Developer and Architect level exam's duration is 4 hours.

What questions are asked on a certification exam?

The Associate Developer level exam is a multiple choice style exam.

The Developer level exam is an application development (practical) exam in which you will be given a specification and the user interface requirements to develop an application.

The Architect level exam may consist of a combination of written and application development parts. A candidate is not allowed to ask clarifying questions of the proctor.

Practical exams sections are graded on three criteria:

- Documentation – User Interface, block diagram and VI properties
- Functionality – Application functions as specified
- Style – Meets LabVIEW Development Guidelines

Are there sample exams available?

For the Certified LabVIEW Associate Developer exam, the [LabVIEW Fundamentals Exam](#) is an accurate preparatory exam in terms of exam-style.

A sample exam is available for the Certified LabVIEW Developer exam. As older exams are retired for other certification, a sample exam will be made available. Candidates are encouraged to review the exam topics listed on www.ni.com/training. For the Developer and Architect exams, sample exams are available from the “Certification Overview” link on www.ni.com/training

For preparation questions on any certification, please contact NI at certification@ni.com

Are there any pre-requisites for the exam?

For the Associate Developer level exam, there is no pre-requisite.

For the Developer level exam, you must have successfully passed and must be certified as an Associate Developer.

For the Architect level exam, you must have successfully passed and must be certified as a Developer.

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