

2021/2022 PROGRAM GUIDE

The School Works: Co-op Wage Subsidy program provides a wage subsidy to employers in the Columbia Basin to help them hire post-secondary students enrolled in full-time education and participating in a recognized university or college co-op education program.

For more information, call toll free 1.877.489.2687 ext. 3584 or email schoolworks@ourtrust.org. This program is administered by College of the Rockies.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who can apply?

Small businesses, non-profits, First Nations communities and local governments with business headquarters located within the Columbia Basin Trust region (ourtrust.org/map).

What type of job can I hire a student for?

Jobs that have been approved by an accredited co-op education program in Canada and that are not eligible for existing sector-specific wage subsidy programs in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics, environmental, mining and agriculture sectors. Approved applicants will be required to hire students within three months of receiving funding approval.

How much is the wage subsidy?

\$8.00/hour.

How many students can I hire through the program?

One student per co-op term. If you are interested in hiring more than one co-op student, contact us to discuss the circumstances.

When can the student start work?

Once your application has been approved and you have signed a contribution agreement with the College of the Rockies.

How many hours per week can the student work?

Up to 40 hours a week.

How long can the student work?

Co-op terms are typically 12-16 weeks in duration and align with an academic semester.

If your student participating is completing co-op terms consecutively, you may be eligible for a second grant, if funding is still available. In this case, you will be required to apply twice and indicate in your second application that the student is continuing their role for a second semester.

Does the program help me find the student?

No, you must identify and/or recruit and hire the appropriate student for the position.

Who can apply?

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Employers Must:	Students Must:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a business (with 100 employees or fewer, including management), local government, non-profit or First Nation community; • operate, with business headquarters, in the Basin (map); • have existed for more than one year; • be a registered business/organization with a Revenue Canada business number; • be unable to hire a student without School Works Program funding; • indicate that hiring a student through the School Works Program will not displace a current employee; • demonstrate that the student’s work will take place within the Columbia Basin; • be able to supervise the student and provide a safe working environment; • not hire a relative unless the relative is supervised by someone other than the business owner; and • adhere to all relevant labour laws, regulatory regulations and guidelines; • have a WorkSafeBC account in good standing by the time the student starts work; • if you currently have WorkSafeBC coverage, you must provide a clearance letter with your application (get the form here); and • if you don’t have WorkSafeBC coverage, you must obtain coverage and send us proof of it before the student starts work (register here). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be living and working in the Basin during the period of employment; • be a post-secondary student enrolled in full-time education and registered with a university or college co-op education program; • be legally entitled to work in Canada; and • be aged 15 or older before the employment start date.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Funding will be considered for co-op placements that:

- meet the requirements of and be approved by an accredited co-op education program;
- are a full-time position (minimum 30 hours per week) lasting 12 to 16 weeks;
- offer a salary that reflects the market wage rate for the position;
- will not displace a current employee;
- are not eligible for existing sector-specific wage subsidy programs in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics, environmental, mining and agriculture sectors; and
- require the student to work in the Columbia Basin Trust [region](#).

WORKSAFEBC REQUIREMENTS

You must have a WorkSafeBC account in good standing.

- If you currently have WorkSafeBC coverage, you must provide a clearance letter with your application. Get the form [here](#).
- If you don't have WorkSafeBC coverage, you must obtain coverage and send us proof of it before the student starts work. Register [here](#).

How does the subsidy work?

WAGES

If your application is successful, you will receive an \$8.00/hour wage subsidy. It is expected that you top up this wage to a competitive wage rate for the position.

Wages should be commensurate to the level of required experience and based upon the higher level of skill, responsibility and education required to complete the work and will likely be higher than minimum wage.

NOTE: The minimum wage has increased from \$14.60 to \$15.20 effective, June 1, 2021.

Information regarding BC Minimum Wages and other BC Employment Standards can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/employment-standards-advice/employment-standards>

MANDATORY EMPLOYMENT-RELATED COSTS

Mandatory Employment-Related Costs (MERCs) include Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, WorkSafeBC and 4% vacation pay.

If you receive a subsidy, we will reimburse you for these costs, calculated as part of the final claim process. They will be based on the total wage subsidy claimed, not the total wage you paid.

For example, if you pay a wage of \$21.00/hour you will be reimbursed for costs calculated against the \$8 wage subsidy. You are responsible for additional costs related to the wage top-up.

FINANCIAL CLAIMS, PAYMENTS AND MONITORING

If your application is successful, you must submit a claim after 12 full weeks of employment, and up to two more claims during the employment period covering a minimum of 12 weeks each. We will determine the number of claims and claim dates based on individual contribution agreement start dates.

Note:

- We will not issue advance payments.
- We will monitor you through a virtual meeting or phone.
- We will base financial reimbursements on satisfactory reporting requirements.

If your application is successful, we will provide you with further details on claims, payment and reporting processes.

How do I apply?

Applications are accepted on a first-received, first-served basis and are assessed as they come in, and continue until all funding for the program has been committed.

There are three steps to apply for a Co-op Wage Subsidy:

1. Define the role and create a job posting.
2. Contact an accredited co-op department to have the job approved and posted.
 - a) Check with the co-op department to ensure the program is accredited.
 - b) Want to post the job with more than one school? Post through the [BC Association for Co-operative Education portal](#) (your job post still needs to be approved by each co-op department) and/or contact schools directly to have your job posting approved.
 - c) Click [here](#) for a list of Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada accredited co-op education programs.
3. Apply for the wage subsidy through the Trust's online application website at ourtrust.org/schoolworks.

If your application requires clarification or further information, we will not consider it 'received' until you have provided all required information.

You will receive an email confirming the receipt of your application from the School Works office.

Note:

- Applicants may submit their application in advance of receiving co-op department approval. Final funding approval will be conditional on receiving job posting approval from an accredited co-op education program in Canada.
- Approved applicants will be required to hire students within three months of receiving funding approval.
- If you already have a student in mind, let us know in your application. You will still be required to have the job approved by their co-op education program but will not be required to post the position.

To be successful, you must:

- Meet all eligibility requirements, as outlined above;
- Provide a safe and supervised employment environment;
- Be following COVID-19 protocols as required by public bodies;
- Pay a market wage rate; and
- Commit and be accountable to the terms of the School Works – Co-op Wage Subsidy program contribution agreement.

When will I know if my application has been approved?

We process applications on a first-received, first-served basis.

You will receive an email confirming approval/decline of your application approximately 10 business days following the receipt of your completed application.

If your application requires clarification or further information we will be in touch; however, **we will not consider it ‘received’ until you have provided all required information.**

Note:

- College of the Rockies, Columbia Basin Trust and their agents shall not be obligated in any manner to any applicant whatsoever.
- College of the Rockies and Columbia Basin Trust reserve the right to fund all or none of any application submitted.
- If your application is successful, you must enter into a contribution agreement with College of the Rockies and commit to offering the total hours of employment being subsidized.
- College of the Rockies is required by the Trust to complete a search at BC Corporate Registry.
- Registered companies are required to be in good standing with BC Corporate Registry.

Reminders:

- We assess the applications as they come in and continue until all funding for the program has been committed.
- Be clear and succinct and use point form where appropriate in the application process.
- Be thorough and complete the application in full; incomplete applications will not be processed.
- Don't forget to upload an electronic copy your WorkSafeBC Compliance Letter with your online application (unless not yet covered by WorkSafeBC).

Questions?

Call toll free 1.877.489.2687 ext. 3584 or email schoolworks@ourtrust.org.