

IMMIGRANT BRIDGING

This section lists Immigrant Bridging programs for immigrants who have post-secondary education and experience in their field of training but require training in Canadian workplace culture, training in their field which may be different from country of origin and job search skills to bridge gaps in knowledge or skill in order to gain entry to their occupation. This training is appropriate for immigrant professionals who are underemployed.

Bow Valley College – Corporate Readiness Training Program (CRTP)

332 – 6 Ave. SE, Calgary, AB T2G 4S6

www.bowvalleycollege.ca

Some learners may qualify for Alberta Works funding.

Corporate Readiness Training Program (CRTP)

<http://crtp.bowvalleycollege.ca>

Contact: Laurel Madro

Ph: 403-410-3459

Or Kamlesh Doad

Ph: 403-410-3466

For registration call

Ph: 403-410-1400

Intake Dates: 3 Semesters:

Jan, May & Aug

This Immigrant Bridging program is designed specifically for immigrant professionals who want to gain employment in the field in which they trained and worked in their countries of origin. This 16-week program is provided to new Canadians who have appropriate occupational skills from their native country, but lack sufficient language ability and Canadian work experience in their chosen fields. It helps these individuals learn the strategies to successfully find a job on their own and the opportunity to earn a Canadian professional reference. It works particularly with Engineers, IT professionals, Accountants, Office Administrators, Technicians, Drafters and many others.

Note that doctors, nurses, pharmacists, teachers, dentists, and lawyers have specific colleges or certification boards and CRTP is therefore unable to provide work experience placement for those occupations and will be referred to Directions for Immigrants in Trades and Professional Careers and Health Career Centre.

As part of the Client Service Plan, appropriate E-Learning Courses will be chosen to enhance each Client's employability and readiness for the workplace. Employment Focused Language Training (consisting of 10 weeks of group training to address improvement of English language skills in the context of the Canadian workplace and culture), basic computer training (MS Word, Windows and Internet), WHMIS, resumé writing, interview skills, job search techniques, job maintenance strategies and an unpaid Work Experience component (consisting of six weeks with a host company who will provide practical experience relevant to the participant's education, skills, and career development needs). Emphasis will be on placements that the participant would not be able to access without the assistance of this program.

Information Sessions:

Room #931, Rocky

Mountain Plaza,

615 McLeod Trail SE

Information Session Dates:

First Wed of every month

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Eligible Clients are immigrants legally entitled to work and train in Canada, a skilled immigrant, resident of Canada for 10 years or less and living in Calgary, have Canadian Language Benchmarks of 5-8 AND ineligible for LINC training, need Canadian/Alberta work experience to enter occupational field, need English workplace cultural training to secure employment in their profession. Candidates can be EI/EI Eligible recipients, Income Support Clients, unemployed or underemployed other Albertans.

Funding Options:

- A tuition-based funding model through Alberta Works that could cover tuition and/or living expenses; or
- The choice to pay or finance the tuition.

Two additional programs have been built to facilitate the ongoing learning and career success for the participants of CRTP:

- **Success in the Workplace:** A part-time communication skills program offering ongoing skills training for working professionals
- **Mentorship for Immigrant Professionals:** Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), this program connects learners/Clients with working professionals in a mentoring partnership.

Bredin Institute – Centre for Learning (AFA)

Suite 500, 744 – 4th Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2P 3T4

www.bredin.ca

This training provider has signed an Accountability Framework Agreement (AFA) with Alberta Human Services (HS) and is responsible for ensuring that all Skills Investment funded learners they accept into their programs have been assessed and need training in order to obtain employment. Training providers may only recommend applications for funding for learners entering programs contained in the training provider's approved Skills Investment Plan as part of the AFA.

Some learners may qualify for Alberta Works funding.

International Pharmacy Bridging Program

Contact: Prakash Aryal
Coordinator, Southern
Region

Bredin – Centre for
Learning

Ph: 403-261-5775

Email:

prakash.aryal@bredin.ca

Ongoing applications

Internationally-trained pharmacists are assisted to acquire a license to practice pharmacy in Alberta. Students are provided with an enhanced learning opportunity, integrating four distinct curriculum areas throughout the duration of study. Upon successful completion of examinations requisite for licensure, graduates are fully prepared to launch active, successful and rewarding careers within the Alberta pharmacy workforce.

Eligibility: Any internationally-trained Pharmacist who has the following credentials is eligible to apply:

- Permanent resident (landed immigrant status)
- Pharmacy degree from a university recognized by the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC)
- Successfully completed the PEBC Evaluating Examination
- An Alberta College of Pharmacists approved language proficiency test
- Intern registration with the Alberta College of Pharmacists

The program runs for 41 weeks. Students participate in seminars, workshops and clinical role play scenarios that develop and hone their professional knowledge and patient counselling skills. In addition, students gain valuable work place experience while engaged in approximately 500 hours of the Alberta College of Pharmacists' structured practical training.

Curriculum modules are competency based, aligning with the competencies for Pharmacists at entry to practice by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) and the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy Canada (AFPC). Successful students are prepared to challenge the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada's Qualification Examination Part II (OSCE).
Cost: \$14,100.

Bredin Institute – Centre for Learning – Building Information Modeling (BIM)

Suite 500, 744 – 4th Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2P 3T4

www.bredin.ca

Some learners may qualify for Alberta Works funding.

Building Information Modeling (BIM) Program

Ph: 403-261-5775

Intakes: Nov, May, Oct

Applications ongoing.

Currently recruiting and screening for next intake.

This Immigrant Bridging program is designed to bridge internationally-educated Engineering and Architect professionals into professional jobs in a new specialty area within their general field of training. The 26-week program will focus on employment preparation/essential skills, Technical English for Engineering, cultural awareness and employment readiness, occupational skills training, computer essentials, Computer-Aided Design (CAD), essentials of building science and Revit Building Information Modeling (BIM) software applications. This is followed with four weeks of work experience with an employer in their field of education and experience.

Eligibility includes unemployed or underemployed immigrants who are internationally-educated Engineers or Architects with the language skills, technical skills, essential skills and commitment necessary to obtain employment as Engineers or Architects or employment in their designated field.

Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)

Business Centre, #200, 1111 – 11 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0G5

Ph: 403-264-4850

Fax: 403-264-4858

www.ccis-calgary.ab.ca

Some learners may qualify for Alberta Works funding.

Calgary: A New Chapter

Contact: Iuliana Doljescu,
Program Facilitator

Ph: 403-264-4850 ext 5430

Fax: 403-264-4858

Email: networking2@ccis-calgary.ab.ca

Interactive information sessions establish the groundwork for successful settlement and employment. They introduce highly-skilled newcomer professionals to various aspects of the resettlement and integration process. Orientation sessions act as a valuable opportunity to make contacts within the business community and Calgary at large.

Key topics include:

- Housing
- Finances
- Family and Education
- Civic Participation
- Cultural Adaptation
- Assessment of Foreign Credentials
- Conducting an Effective Job Search in Alberta

Electrician Upgrading and Certification Program

Contact: Brian Frank,
Project Manager

Ph: 403-290-5127

E-mail: ele@ccis-calgary.ab.ca

Ongoing Intakes

Next Start Date:

Dec 2/13

This Immigrant Bridging program is designed to train new Canadians with an electrician background from their home country, through targeted upgrading, that will allow them to become Alberta certified Journeymen by challenging the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Journeyman Electrician theory and practical exams and gaining their Red Seal designation.

It provides a total of 26 weeks of training, which includes 14 weeks of training in:

- Essential Skills Enhancement training
- Employability Enhancement training
- Labour market Information and job Search strategies
- Standard First Aid/ CPR

- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), and
- Construction Safety Training System (CSTS), taught at CCIS and through private contractors.
- The Canadian Electrical Code and Theory, PLC (Programmable Logic Controller – PLCI & II), Hands-on Training and Fire Alarm System Installation are taught at SAIT Polytechnic.

This is followed with twelve weeks of work experience with host electrical companies, which is an integral part of the program.

Engineering and Technology Upgrading Program

Contact: Sholeh Mahdavi,
Program Coordinator
Ph: 403-290-5110
Email: eng@ccis-calgary.ab.ca
Next Intake: Dec 3/13
Applications Ongoing

This Immigrant Bridging program improves the employability of new Canadian professional engineers, geologists or geophysicists into the Canadian workplace. Each 26-week intake will provide 15 newcomers with 26 weeks of Employment Preparation Skills Training, which includes training in communication, computer skills, accent reduction, job finding skills and work skills management, Occupational Skills Training at SAIT and a Work Experience Placement.

Client's eligibility: Any Immigrant who is unemployed or receiving Alberta Works, or receiving EI or had received EI in the past three years or on maternity leave within the past five years. Applicants must have a degree or diploma in an engineering or technology-related field.

Enhanced Language Training Program for Immigrant Professionals in the Environmental Occupations

Contact: Karen O'Leary,
Program Coordinator
Ph: 403-290-5431
Email: elt@ccis-calgary.ab.ca
Intake Start Date: Nov 1/13

This program provides newcomers, who have experience and expertise in the environmental field, with the necessary English skills, business communication skills, intercultural competencies, occupation-specific language skills and job search strategies to secure and retain employment, commensurate with their skills and qualifications, in environmental professions within the Energy Sector.

Developed in partnership with the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO Canada), the program provides 12 weeks of training followed by a 12-week work experience placement. Participants must be internationally-trained professionals, with a minimum of five years of experience in environmental occupations related to the Energy Sector, who are permanent residents, and who are currently unemployed. Candidates must have a minimum Canadian Language Benchmark Level of 7 in all four of the language streams.

The program is made possible through funding from Alberta Human Services and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA)

#200, 138 – 4 Ave. SE, Calgary, AB T2G 4Z6
Ph: 403-263-4414
Fax: 403-264-2914
Email: employmentservices@ciwa-online.com
www.ciwa-online.com

Bridging the Gap for Foreign-Trained Accountants Program (ELT)

Contact: Kirsten Sztain
Ph: 403-263-4414 ext 141
Email: kirstens@ciwa-online.com

This is a full-time 24 week bridge-to-work program for foreign-trained accountants which includes 14 weeks of enhanced language and skills development training and a 10-week unpaid work experience placement. Daycare costs and travel are reimbursed for the duration of the program.

Eligibility:

- Education and/or experience in accounting/ financial fields
- CLBs 7 or higher in all four strands
- Be Canadian permanent resident (not citizen)
- Ability to commit to 24 week program
- Highly motivated to find employment in accounting field

Office Administration Program

Contact: Anna Zatsepina,
Program Coordinator
Ph: 403-263-4414 ext 127
Email: annaz@ciwa-online.com

OR

Noreen Seib
Ph: 403-263-4414 ext 116

This is a full-time 24-week bridge-to-work program for professional immigrant women with education and experience in administrative-related professions. There are 14 weeks of enhanced language and skills development training and a 10-week unpaid work experience placement. Daycare costs and travel are reimbursed for the duration of the project.

Eligibility:

- Education and/or experience in office administration
- CLB 7 or higher in all four strands
- Permanent resident or convention refugee
- Ability to commit to a 24-week project
- Highly motivated to find employment in administrative field
- Be unemployed or underemployed

Centre for Newcomers

Suite 1010, 999 36 ST NE. Calgary, AB T2A 7X6
www.centrefornewcomers.ca

Business Communication for Accountants

Contact: Jay Pinaroc,
Program Assistant
Ph: 403-569-3339
Email:
j.pinaroc@centrefornewcomers.ca
9:00 am -12:00 pm,
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

This bridging full-time program includes: Business English, Computer and Accounting Courses:

- 9 weeks enhanced English language, Canadian workplace culture and job readiness training (Resume Writing, Interview and Networking Skills)
- 3 weeks of computer training and upgrading
- 12 weeks of accounting courses from an accredited educational institute
- 10 weeks of work experience
- Introduction to membership in professional accounting associations

Qualifications Required:

- University degree in accounting or related
- Professional experience in accounting and currently not working in this profession
- Canadian Language Benchmark of 6 or higher
- Permanent Resident of Canadian citizen
- Commitment to a full-time, 34 week program
- In Canada for less than 10 years

ECO Canada (Environmental Careers Organization)

#200, 308 – 11 Ave. SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0Y2
www.eco.ca

Environmental Immigrant Bridging Program

Ph: 403-233-0748
Fax: 403-269-9544
Email: info@eco.ca

This program is designed for internationally trained professionals with skills that align with the environmental sector. It enables individuals to bridge the cultural knowledge gap and proactively address barriers to employment. There are 180 hours of in-class training to provide training related to essential skills, the Canadian professional workplace culture and the sector-specific language necessary to bridge the gap between the participant's international experience and Canadian context. Note: This program does not cover technical aspects of environmental work in Canada.

The program is delivered by partner Immigrant Serving Agencies across Canada. Staff work one-on-one with participants to help them prepare their resume and cover letters, conduct mock interviews and learn the course material in order to develop job readiness skills. Following training, students will participate in work exposure opportunities that could include attending lectures by industry representatives, mentorship opportunities, informational interviews, networking and volunteer opportunities.

Eligible participants must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum of five years of experience working in an environmentally related field
- Degree or a diploma in an environmentally related area (Foreign Credential Evaluation required)
- Minimum Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) of 7 in all four areas of assessment: reading, writing, speaking, and listening (proof of proficiency required)
- Underemployed or unemployed in field of expertise
- Eligible to work in Canada
- Commitment to attend classes and complete course activities
- Self-motivation and strong dedication to independent employment search

Mount Royal University (MRU) – Bridge to Canadian Nursing Certificate Program (AFA)

4825 Mount Royal Gate SW, Calgary, AB T3E 6K6

<http://www.mtroyal.ab.ca/> or <http://www.mtroyal.ab.ca/finances/skillsinvestmentprogram.shtml>

This training provider has signed an Accountability Framework Agreement (AFA) with Alberta Human Services (HS) and is responsible for ensuring that all Skills Investment funded learners they accept into their programs have been assessed and need training in order to obtain employment. Training providers may only recommend applications for funding for learners entering programs contained in the training provider's approved Skills Investment Plan as part of the AFA.

Some learners may qualify for Alberta Works funding.

Bridge to Canadian Nursing Certificate Program

Ph: 403-440-6074

Fax: 403-440-6555

Email:

bcnursing@mtroyal.ca

This full-time program is designed for nurses who are educated and registered in foreign countries. It introduces Internationally Educated Nurses (IEN) to nursing practice in Canada and combines professional communication skills for nurses, professional terminology, clinical judgment skills and an understanding of human responses in health and illness. It helps IEN identify differences between their previous nursing experience and Canadian practices, then offers a "bridge" course of studies that will help them gain the knowledge and skills expected of graduate nurses in Canada. Courses are based on national entry competencies which are defined by the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination. They are also based on standards and competencies set by the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta.

SAIT Polytechnic

1301 - 16 Ave. NW, Calgary, AB T2M 0L4

www.sait.ca

Are You Ready to Teach?

Email Pamela.Heath@sait.ca with your resume and a Letter of Intent specifying your interest and area of concentration

Dates: TBD

Tuition Fee: \$1,195

Post-Secondary institutes have a growing need to attract and hire new faculty to fill current and future teaching vacancies. SAIT is looking for newcomers with advanced technical credentials who are interested in teaching in Alberta. SAIT is working closely with immigrant settlement agency partners and others to identify suitable program candidates. Requirements for this program are:

- Hold a Master's or PhD degree in a technical discipline
- Experienced technical instructor
- An internationally educated professional
- Priority for those who have immigrated to Canada within the past five years (longer term residents also considered)
- Demonstrate a CLB Level 7 in all skills
- Enthusiastic about learning the Canadian post-secondary culture and language

The course provides:

- Sixteen-week language upgrading/instructional skills program (one evening/week plus every Saturday morning)
- Four-week practicum with a regional post-secondary educational/training institute
- Classroom observations and mentoring
- Follow-up at 90 and 180 days after completion of the training program
- Workplace readiness training
- Certificate of Completion

This course for professionally and instructionally-skilled information technology newcomers interested in entering the Alberta IT labour force provides:

- 15 weeks of in class communicating/language-training
- Eight-week practicum in the workplace
- Guest speakers
- Workplace readiness training
- Follow-up at 90 and 180 days after completion of the training program
- Certificate of Completion

Workplace

Communication for Information Technology (WCIT)

Course Dates

Jan 13/14 - Apr 25/14

Course Fees:

\$4,850.00

Funding may be available.

Requirements

Participants must:

- Hold a degree or technical diploma in a computer science or computer engineering discipline or equivalent;
- Have at least two years' related IT experience in their own country and within the last two years;
- Demonstrate a Canadian Language Benchmark Assessment level 6 in all skills;
- Be enthusiastic about learning Canadian workplace culture and language.

YWCA – Canadian Employment Skills

320 - 5 Ave. SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0E5

www.ywcaofcalgary.com then follow links under "Learn English"

Some learners may qualify for Alberta Works funding.

Canadian Employment Skills Program

Contact: Myriam Nickel,
Supervisor

Ph: 403-294-7328

Email:

mnickel@ywcaofcalgary.com

3 Intakes/Year in Mar, Jul,
Nov

Applications: Ongoing

This 25-week Immigrant Bridging program is designed for new Canadians who have appropriate occupational skills from their native country, but lack appropriate English skills and Canadian work experience. It will assist these individuals to obtain employment that takes advantage of their previous skills and training.

The program includes ten weeks of Canadian Work Skills Training – Fluency and English Communication Skills, Canadian Culture and Workplace Information and Basic Computer Training, and twelve weeks of Work Experience with an employer who can provide experience relevant to the participant's skills and career development needs. Participants will be at the work experience job site four days per week and will attend group sessions at the YWCA on Fridays. The group sessions are designed to provide participants with an opportunity to report on their work experiences, learn job maintenance skills and continue to practice communication and English language skills.

Eligibility:

- Permanent Resident, Canadian Citizen or Convention Refugee
- Minimum CLB of L6 S6 R5 W5
- Education and experience in profession from first country and a desire to continue that career in Canada
- Can be on EI, Income Support, unemployed or underemployed
- Willing to commit to a 25-week program
- Motivated to learn about the Canadian workplace and establish a career

Funding is provided by the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada. For eligible participants, this funding will cover program costs and may provide income support for living expenses.
