

Information On

CAREER PATHWAYS

For Youth Looking To Enter The Workforce



CAREERS
take on the future

OUR MISSION

Enable Youth On Their Path To Rewarding Careers

CAREERS works with schools to connect youth, 15 to 20, with employers for paid internships in a variety of in-demand fields.

Investigate Your Career Options

CAREERS offers a dynamic lineup of free virtual and in-person events — from career showcases and career fairs to hands-on camps and interactive classroom presentations — all designed to help youth explore exciting career pathways.

Students can discover high-demand careers of the future, learn how to get paid while earning high school credits (if enrolled and/or required), and connect directly with industry professionals.

Talk to your school's off-campus coordinator for details, and visit the CAREERS website to register for an upcoming event.

Your future starts here — don't miss it!



Kennedy Bahm, Journeyperson Welder, CAREERS Alumni

In-Demand Career Pathways

Alberta's future workforce needs continually change. As an organization guided by industry, CAREERS responds by expanding our programming when needed and offering opportunities in a wide range of industries such as Skilled Trades, Agriculture, Information & Communications Technology (ICT), Forestry, Energy/Oil & Gas, Healthcare, Aviation, and more.

CAREERS also supports underrepresented groups with targeted initiatives such as Young Women in Skilled Trades & Technologies (YWITT) and Indigenous Youth Career Pathways (IYCP).

Quick Facts

- Open to high school students and recent graduates up to age 20.
- Earn valuable career experience high school credits (if enrolled and/or required), and in some cases may be eligible for coverage under Alberta Education's WCB.
- All interns are paid at least minimum wage.
- Flexible scheduling — split your time between school and work in a way that works for you: half-days, certain weekdays, weekends, holidays, summers, or even a full semester.
- Alberta Education guidelines ensure safety and keep learning a top priority.

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Skilled Trades

Alberta currently has over 50 regulated trades governed by guidelines and standards developed by the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board (AIT). Visit tradesecrets.alberta.ca to learn about skilled trades. CAREERS supports skilled trades internships by recruiting employers who can provide quality hands on experience in building, industrial, metal, piping, electrical, service, and motor-related trades. These employers range from small service businesses to global companies in sectors such as forestry, energy, fabrication, construction, and agriculture. CAREERS then works with high school off-campus coordinators, matching suitable students to available employers.

Youth up to the age of 20 years old can explore over 50 skilled trades. Those who are still in high school, may also be eligible to begin their apprenticeship training through the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP). RAP is a joint Alberta Education and Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) initiative allowing students to earn hours towards their certification while still in high school.

CAREERS CO-OP Apprenticeship Program (CCAP)

For over 25 years, this program provides local youth in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) the opportunity to achieve the practical and academic credentials required to develop a career in the trades. Eligible youth must be within seven years of graduating high school and have resided within Wood Buffalo for a minimum of one year. Participants become apprentices with industry employers and work to attain journeyman status.

The program is managed as a continuing education program with mandatory technical training each year. The CAREERS CO-OP model in the RMWB is unique in Canada; rotating apprentices amongst employers on an annual basis to enhance workplace learning and opportunities.



Iain Froom, Heavy Duty Mechanic Apprentice, RME Picture Butte

I learned that my work ethic makes a huge difference here.



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Information & Communications Technology

Digitally skilled workers are needed to support the adoption and implementation of the increasingly in-demand information communications technologies (ICT) sector. ICT is a broad industry that covers any product or service that will store, manipulate, transmit, or receive information electronically cutting across almost every industry.

CAREERS has six focus areas for internships: business marketing, digital design, software development, infrastructure, information systems, and data security. Youth up to the age of 20 and working part time during the school year or full-time during the summer have proven to be productive in process mapping, data collection, script writing, social media coordination, and more. The interns are keen to learn and they bring knowledge to their internships from past coursework as well as hackathons, robotics clubs, or programming challenges. Employers and youth may work together to build out tasks and responsibilities, and adapt the work environment to the situation, in person or remote work.

Forestry

Forestry provides thousands of jobs across the country. CAREERS' collaboration with Inside Education and Work Wild in the Forestry Futures Alliance, together with community stakeholders, increases student awareness of the industry and sustainable management practices.

Tours and camps expand high school youth's understanding of trades, information and communications technologies, and other occupations supporting the forest industry. Experienced industry experts working in woodlands, mill facilities such as sawmills and pulping facilities, and environmental performance areas, provide mentorship for interns.

As a result, students gain improved employability skills and a better understanding of how forestry careers link to post-secondary credentials.



Joshua Omeje, ICT Intern, Fort McMurray Giants



This experience really opened my eyes.

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Agriculture

Agriculture internships allow students to experience one of the largest industries in Canada. The agriculture and food sectors are at the leading edge of research and innovation to address global challenges.

Careers in agriculture and food are incredibly diverse and are not restricted to only farm experiences. Opportunities may include learning about plant systems while working in nurseries, about animal health while assisting in veterinary clinics, about technology while installing and maintaining robotics systems on farms, about crop production while participating in state-of-the-art agriculture research and innovation, and so much more. Industry experts help interns gain an understanding of potential post-secondary options as well as where they want to focus their future.



Avery Taylor, Small Animal Intern, Hidden Springs Pet Resort

I really like working here... I might as well not change it if I'm loving what I'm doing.

Energy / Oil & Gas

Occupations highlighted in this area range from operating and maintaining oil and gas operations to working on new solar or wind energy sites. Youth gain the opportunity to explore and acquire the attitudes, skills, and knowledge required to enter the post-secondary learning system or the workplace.

Two high school dual credit opportunities provide college-based theory courses followed by workplace hours. Theory is put into practice with internships in 4th Class Power Engineering (PE), available across the province, and Non-Destructive Testing (NDT), available in Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. PE interns gain knowledge needed to maintain and operate boiler systems, while NDT interns learn the foundation of piping inspection.

Construction of solar and wind farms involves site preparation, organizing materials and equipment, and assisting with component installation. High school graduate interns, 17 to 20 years of age, will learn construction fundamentals and use these to determine what post-secondary education path to follow, such as wind turbine technician, electrician, instrumentation, and construction trades.

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Health

Health internships give youth the opportunity to experience one of over 200 health occupations through a six-to-eight-week summer internship or a part-time internship through one semester of the school year.

Youth get real life experience in a healthcare field, such as allied health, dental health, administration, health promotion, medical technology, or patient support. Additionally, CAREERS provides summer camps where youth explore a wide range of health occupations through hands-on activities at post-secondary, allied health providers, and health service institutions.

I would not have known how much I enjoyed this kind of work without CAREERS.

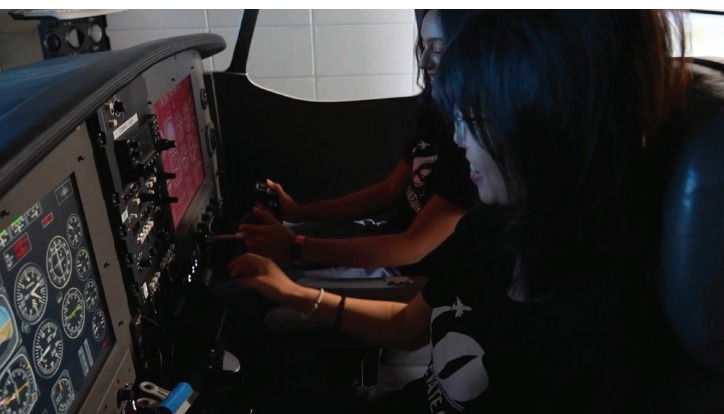


Jen McCallum (middle), Grace Weeks (right), Health Care Aide Interns, Covenant Health, Castor Alberta

Aerospace & Aviation

The aerospace and aviation sector in Alberta is a beacon of progress and innovation. As the province continues to embrace technological advancements, nurture a highly skilled workforce, and build strong connections, it solidifies its position as a key player in the global aviation landscape.

Youth interested in this pathway can explore a variety of opportunities in maintenance, avionics, structures, and related technologies.



Reet Khinda, Marketing Intern, Elevate Aviation

Programs like this let you experience different fields and find what you're passionate about.

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CAREERS Initiatives

Young Women In Trades & Technologies (YWITT)

This initiative aims to attract and retain more young women in non-traditional trades and technologies. Through internships, apprenticeship, and camps, CAREERS encourages young women, in junior and senior high school, to try out the skilled trades, the CAREERS CO-OP Apprenticeship Program, and dual credit programs.

Through YWITT, female youth receive the benefit of receiving career mentorship from a wide range of amazing female mentors, including experienced journey ticketed experts and guidance from other forward-thinking organizations and businesses including Women Building Futures, Skills Canada Alberta, and more!

Indigenous Youth Careers Pathways (IYCP)

The Indigenous Youth Career Pathways initiative was created to provide additional focus and effort in engaging Indigenous youth in career awareness and exploration. Students who self-identify as being of First Nations, Metis, and/or Indigenous heritage, and are in grades 10 to 12, are provided with a wider range of occupations to test out through paid, mentored work experience.

This includes positions in finance, communications and marketing, natural resource management, ecotourism, educational support, engineering technologies, land surveying and drafting. Additional opportunities are also available for Indigenous youth under the age of 21. Local companies and organizations provide paid internships to support youth in broadening understanding of industry, career paths, and post-secondary education while increasing confidence and skills.

Another facet of this initiative focuses on youth working at summer jobs provided by First Nations and Metis organizations. CAREERS creates year round access to career conversations by delivering onsite, summer career exploration presentations and activities. Career coaches add to the summer job experience by engaging in one-on-one career discussions, connecting summer job responsibilities with employability skills, reducing barriers to internship opportunities, and increasing internship or work readiness.



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