EDUCATOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is EMC's WILWorks Skilled Trades in Advanced Manufacturing Program?

EMC's WILWorks Skilled Trades in Advanced Manufacturing Program is a pre-apprenticeship program funded in part by the Government of Canada's Canadian Apprenticeship Strategy. It provides introductory technical skills training to youth to support them in their skill development, while highlighting skilled trades career pathways in manufacturing.
The program offers employers up to $5000 in wage subsidies per participant.

What are the Eligibility Requirements for EMC's WILWorks Skilled Trades in Advanced Manufacturing Program?

To participate, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Age: Between the ages of 15 to 29.
- Legal Authorization: Must be legally entitled to work in Canada.
- Apprenticeship Status: Individuals should not be registered in an apprenticeship
- Educational Background: All of the training is provided at an introductory level and not suitable for someone who has received vocational training or post-secondary education in the assigned technical topics.

Participants under 18 require parental or guardian permission to join.

For employers to participate, they must meet the following criteria:

- Registered Canadian Business
- Member of the manufacturing sector
- Provide participant with mentor led hands-on training

Is the program available to high school students?

Yes, the program is available to high school students who meet the eligibility criteria. It is a great fit for students looking to explore career opportunities and learn more about the trades. However, students may not be registered in an apprenticeship program and earning on-the-job hours.

If you know a student interested in exploring potential career paths in advanced manufacturing and skilled trades, EMC's WILWorks Skilled Trades in Advanced Manufacturing Program is designed to provide them with the knowledge and experience necessary for making informed career decisions.

Once a participant is registered, what training will they complete?

Once registered, participants engage in foundational courses covering career awareness and safety, followed by an introduction to advanced manufacturing through our online learning portal.

Subsequently, training is customized to the specific facility, focusing on at least four (4) technical topics in machining, electrical and/or mechanical, selected by the employer. This comprehensive online program typically spans 14 to 20 hours.

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Guided by workplace mentors, participants apply theoretical knowledge to practical manufacturing scenarios, gaining essential hands-on experience. Throughout the training period, participants are supported by an EMC Advancement Coach, who provides progress updates and additional insights into skilled trades and manufacturing careers.

Upon completion, participants receive a micro-credential in Skilled Trades in Advanced Manufacturing, certified through:

- Completion of Online Training,
- Verification of Hands-On Training Completion, and
- Employer Verification of Skill Development.

Participants also have the opportunity to earn additional micro-credentials by completing optional training. If they elect to complete optional training, they will have an additional 2 months after their training period to complete optional training.

- **Manufacturing Foundations Micro-Credential** introduces participants to the manufacturing sector, including topics like Attitude and Accountability, Problem-Solving, Giving and Receiving Feedback, Adaptability and Resilience, Difficult Interactions, Health and Safety, and more. Participants successfully complete a knowledge assessment to receive the Manufacturing Foundations Micro-Credential.
- **EMC's Lean Fundamentals Micro-Credential** training provides a strong foundation and introduction to the core principles of Lean Thinking, including Value Stream Mapping and Kaizen. Participants apply their knowledge in a lean project as part of the training. Completing the credential certifies that the learner has developed an understanding of the principles of Lean Thinking in a manufacturing environment.

Will participants receive certifications upon completion?

Participants will receive a Skilled Trades in Advanced Manufacturing Micro-Credential upon successful completion of the program and verification of their acquired skills. A micro-credential is a short training program aimed at equipping participants with new skills to boost their employability. These credentials complement participants' existing education. Upon finishing the training and having their work placement verified by their employer, participants will earn a digital badge. This badge serves as recognition of their program completion and can be showcased on their resume and social media profiles.

Who selects the participant for the training period?

The employer is responsible for recruiting and selecting eligible participants for the training period. We encourage interested individuals to connect directly with local manufacturers. Participants can express their interest by applying through our online platform, where their resumes will be securely stored and shared with employers in their specified region.

Can employers stack different funding with EMC's WILWorks Skilled Trades in Advanced Manufacturing Program?

Depending on the scenario partial government funds from provincial, territorial, or municipal sources may be permitted, Employers should consult with the provincial, territorial or municipal program to confirm stacking eligibility and confirm with EMC as well.

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Is there a limit on how many positions an employer can receive funding for?

EMC has the right to limit the number of applications per company. If an employer is interested in applying for more than four (4) participants, they are encouraged to contact EMC directly to discuss requirements.

Is there a set duration for the training period?

Yes, the training period for the program is structured to run between 8 to 16 weeks. If there is a need for an extension beyond this timeframe, it will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. For participants engaged in co-op programs or summer employment, all training components must be completed before the semester's end date.

When does the program start?

The training can begin as soon as all registration documents are received and reviewed. The program's e-learning content is accessible online and self-directed, allowing flexibility in selecting start dates. Participants and employers can coordinate to commence the program at their convenience. However, it's essential to remember that funding spaces are limited. As a result, early registration is highly recommended.

How can educators get involved in the program?

Educators play a crucial role in guiding students through the pre-apprenticeship program. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Information Sharing:** Educators can provide students with essential details about the program, including its purpose, benefits and the skills it imparts. By discussing the program in class or during advising sessions, you help students make informed decisions.
- **Benefits Clarification:** Help students understand the program's advantages and how it aligns with their career goals. This clarity can empower them to see the value of participation.
- **Application Assistance:** Guide students through the application process, ensuring they submit all necessary documents and information. Your support can simplify a potentially unfamiliar process.
- **Industry Placements:** Share program information with any manufacturing-based placements you have access to. This expands awareness of the program's potential benefits.

Does the pre-apprenticeship qualify for the learner's level one apprenticeship training?

The pre-apprenticeship program is designed to introduce learners to various career opportunities and pathways, helping them discover interests that resonate with them. While participants will receive foundational training that sets the stage for future career paths, it's important to note that this training does not contribute towards their level one apprenticeship requirements. The program focuses on providing learners with essential skills and knowledge for their career journey and bringing awareness to manufacturing and skilled trades career opportunities.

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How much does the program cost?

The WILWorks Skilled Trades in Advanced Manufacturing program is free for participants. Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Canadian Apprenticeship Strategy, it offers an accessible opportunity for youth to explore career pathways in skilled trades and advanced manufacturing, while gaining valuable industry experience.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have further questions or require further assistance, please contact:
Julie Smith, Project Coordinator at jsmith@emccanada.org or by phone at 519- 377-0235.

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