



What is EMC's WILWorks program?

EMC is a preferred partner for the Government of Canada to deliver the Student Work Placement Program (SWPP) wage subsidy to Canada's manufacturing and related sectors.

The WILWorks program will support manufacturers hiring student talent through internships, co-op placements, practicums or applied research projects. Through the WILWorks program, EMC will also create partnerships with colleges, universities, polytechnics, and CEGEPs to help develop a pipeline of future employment-ready graduates.

Why should I hire a student?

The purpose of the SWPP funding is to motivate employers to increase their number of student work placements or start student placements. Student can support your current business needs and/or work projects and initiatives. The program can also help you to attract young talent, gain exposure to students in the work environment, and create a talent pipeline for the future.

For employers who have not had student placements in the past, WILWorks provides opportunity and flexibility to complement your current workforce with subsidized student resources.

What funding does EMC's WILWorks provide?

The WILWorks program offers wage subsidies up to \$7,500 per student placement.

Update! The Government of Canada has extended the temporary relief measures introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for another year - until March 31, 2022.

- The "net new" placement criteria has been waived.
- Flexibility with start and end dates, as well as the duration of the placement(s).
- Post-secondary institutions (universities, colleges and polytechnics) can continue to be the employer of record to offer meaningful placements to students. Please note this measure will be in place until July 31, 2022
- Working remotely in a safe environment, from the student's home or other self-isolated area is allowed, and there is no end date to this measure

SWPP Subsidy Scenario

Student hired to work 35 hours at \$18.00/hour for 16 weeks would normally cost \$10,080 in wages. Using the SWPP wage subsidy with the temporary COVID-19 increased subsidy, company total cost would be \$2580 for the student placement.

What is net new?

The SWPP program is designed to encourage employers to increase the number of work integrated learning placements they offer. Placement applications must be “net new” to be eligible – this means the positions are over and above what the company has hired in the past.

**Please note the net new requirement has been waived until March 31, 2022*

What are the eligibility requirements for students in the WILWorks program?

- Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or persons to whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (**International students are not eligible**)
- Registered full-time or part-time in a recognized Canadian post-secondary institution in any program, e.g., Arts, Business, Humanities, Social Sciences, STEM (Science, Technology Engineering, Math),
- Legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial or territorial legislation and regulations,
- The WIL (work integrated learning) experience must be recognized by the student’s post secondary institution to be eligible.
 - o If not part of a formal education program, work experience that complements a student’s program of study and career goals may also qualify.
 - o Learn more about Work-Integrated Learning [here](#).

What is the process for a manufacturing or related sector firm to access the WILWorks wage subsidy?

Employers interested in applying for a WILWorks wage subsidy placement can apply online through the [WILWorks Platform](#). If an employer requires further assistance, please contact Wendy Gray, Sr. Project Coordinator wgray@emccanada.org and/or Natalie Lafleche, Project Coordinator nlafleche@emccanada.org.

What are the application deadlines?

Application deadlines can be seen below. Funding is limited so the application platform may move to waitlist status or close before this date. We encourage employers to apply early.

Semester	Deadline
Summer 2021	Still accepting applications
Fall 2021 (Sep - Dec)	December 3, 2021
Winter 2022 (Jan-Mar 31*)	Now Accepting Applications

*The work term can still run until April 30th; however, subsidy is only covered until March 31st

What are the WILWorks program details?

- EMC will be able to support full-time or part-time paid placements as short as 6 weeks, to a maximum of 16 weeks. It is up to the employer and student to determine the duration. The subsidy will be pro-rated accordingly. Please note that the subsidy for the Winter 2022 term will cover from January 2022 until March 31st, 2022 at this time. An announcement for funding beyond April 1st, 2022 will be provided at a later date.
- Work placements should be relevant to the manufacturing and related sectors.
- Since this is a wage-subsidy program, WILWorks students will need to be part of your firm's payroll system so that they can receive their payments.
- Employers can apply for back-to-back placements for the same student.
- Employers agree to participate in meetings with EMC at its request for monitoring the progress of the placement.
- The final subsidy amount as calculated by EMC will be determined at the end of the placement pending receipt of the employer's and student's Exit Surveys and the student's first and final pay stub.

Am I an eligible employer?

To be eligible for WILWorks SWPP funding the employer is:

- A registered Canadian business or organization
- A member of Canada's manufacturing and related sectors (e.g., North American Industry Classification - NAICS codes 31-33)
- Not a federal or provincial government organization
- Financially capable to hire a student for a part- or full-time work term, pay them consistently and provide a meaningful work experience
- Post-secondary institutions are an eligible employer as part of the temporary COVID-19 relief measures

Are we eligible if we are participating in another federal funding program?

WILWorks subsidies cannot be combined with any other federal government funding to support the same position.

Can employers stack different funding and still be eligible for the WILWorks SWPP funding?

Yes, partial government funds from provincial/territorial/municipal sources are permitted. Placements can be partially government-funded, but only funds from nongovernmental sources can be subsidized under this program (i.e., a position paid with 60% provincial grant funding is only eligible for a 40% subsidy of the non-governmental funds from the employer). An employer must disclose if and by how much government sources are partially funding the placement.

Who selects the student to work at my firm?

The recruitment, interviewing, and selection of the student to fill eligible WILWorks positions is done by the employer. Students must meet the WIL (work integrated learning) requirements, or the WIL experience must be recognized by the student's post secondary institution to be eligible.

Where do I go to find a qualified student(s)?

You are encouraged to use your usual recruitment channels to hire or contact your region's post secondary institutions and contact their Coop/Career Services department. Many academic institutions have dedicated job board portals and career events to facilitate the recruitment process.

Who do I contact at a post-secondary institution for help recruiting?

EMC can connect you to a post secondary institution in your region or with programs aligned to your hiring needs to support your recruitment efforts.

Does the student have to be in a manufacturing role to be eligible?

Students may be hired into direct or indirect roles (i.e., human resources, finance, graphic design, I.T., etc.). The WIL experience must be recognized by the student's post secondary institution to be eligible.

What are the required placement terms?

Placement employment agreements are between the student and the employer. EMC is not a party to these agreements and assumes no financial or legal responsibility with regard to events or actions by either party that affect the employment situation for any student (e.g. layoffs, intellectual property issues, confidentiality agreements, strikes, etc.). The employer is legally required to provide Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) or alternate workplace insurance coverage for the student employee.

How much should I pay a student?

While an employer determines a student's salary, EMC asks that it is fair and reasonable based on industry standards. The salary offered may not be less than the minimum wage.

Can an employer apply before hiring a student?

Yes, employers can apply before or after a student has been hired. The WIL (work integrated learning) must be recognized by the student's post secondary institution to be eligible. Final approval would be granted upon confirmation of student eligibility.

Can an employer receive the WILWorks wage subsidy for a student who has already started the position?

Yes, if the student is still actively working in the position, employers can apply for the WILWorks wage subsidy for any active student placements that are not yet supported by another federal program. Please see the application deadlines for each term above.

Can employers receive funding for more than one student per term?

Yes, employers can receive funding for more than one student per term. However, employers must submit one application per student placement. EMC retains the right to limit the number of subsidies provided to an employer.

Can an employer hire a student for a period that is less than four months?

Yes an employer can hire a student for a period that is less than four months; in that case, the subsidy will be pro-rated. As mentioned elsewhere in the FAQs, EMC will support full-time or part-time paid placements as short as 6 weeks, to a maximum of 16 weeks. Please note that the subsidy for the Winter 2022 term will cover from January 2022 until March 31st, 2022. Please note that the subsidy for the Winter 2022 term will cover from January 2022 until March 31st, 2022 at this time. An announcement for funding beyond April 1st, 2022 will be provided at a later date.

Can an employer receive multiple subsidies for the same student if the student is working consecutive terms?

Yes, an employer can apply for and be approved for consecutive terms through the WILWorks program. All aspects of the application process must be completed for an additional subsidy to be approved. In this case, employers would need to submit one application per work term. If you have questions, please contact EMC to discuss the process.

What documentation do I need to provide at the end of a student's work placement?

The final subsidy amount will be determined at the end of the placement pending receipt of the employer's and the student's Exit Survey, invoice and attestation from employer to EMC and student's first and final pay stub.

How often can employers apply for the funding in a year?

Employers may apply for funding several times in a year, if they demonstrate a net new increase in the number of work placements offered when compared to the previous year (see Net New Placement clause). *Please note the net new requirement has been waived until March 31, 2022.

- Employers must submit a new application for each term, i.e., new Employer and Students forms must be submitted online every term.

When will the employer receive the wage subsidy?

The subsidy will be forwarded to the employer within 45 days due net of receipt of an invoice to be issued by the employer on the placement's conclusion. All such invoices must be submitted with a copy of the first and final pay stub for the student showing the total salary payments made to the student during the placement. All payments are subject to EMC's receipt of the above documentation and the employer and student Exit Surveys, and the continuation of funding from The Government of Canada.

My company does not work in the manufacturing sector, can I still apply?

You may still apply and be approved for a subsidy if you operate in a manufacturing-related sub-sector. EMC will either process your application or refer your application to another Government of Canada approved Delivery Provider. If you have questions about the eligibility criteria, contact **Wendy Gray**, Sr. Project Coordinator wgray@emccanada.org and/or **Natalie Lafleche**, Project Coordinator nlafleche@emccanada.org.

Are not-for-profit organizations eligible to participate in the program as employers?

Yes, not-for-profit, and charitable organizations that support Canada's manufacturing and related sectors are eligible to participate in the WILWorks program, if they can provide a business registration number or charitable registration number.

Can I hire a student who has previously worked with my firm?

Yes, you can hire a student who has previously worked with your firm if all other eligibility requirements are met.

Can I receive a subsidy if I hire an immediate family member?

No, it is not possible for an employer to receive a wage subsidy for an immediate family member. "Immediate family" for the WILWorks program includes; father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, brother, sister, spouse (including common law partner), child (including child of common law partner), step-child, ward, father in law, mother in law or relative permanently residing in the household of the employer.

Can I receive a wage subsidy for a recent graduate?

No, the WILWorks program supports students that are currently registered full-time or part-time in a Canadian post-secondary institution so hiring new graduates is not eligible under the program.

Can I receive a wage subsidy if I hire a traditional apprentice?

No, traditional apprentice positions are not supported by the WILWorks program.

Can I receive a subsidy if I hire an international student?

No, international students are not eligible for the program.

Can I receive a subsidy if hire a high school student?

No, this wage subsidy is only for post-secondary students. WILWorks for high school is presently being investigated.

If I hire a student as an independent contractor, will I be eligible to apply to the WILWorks program?

No, the student must be hired as an employee of the firm and have equal rights and obligations as other employees.

Please contact EMC if you have questions. We are happy to help you determine potential eligibility before you submit your application. Please contact [Wendy Gray](#) (519-377-5709) or [Natalie Lafleche](#) (902-293-0138) to determine eligibility.