



WILWorks SWPP Employer FAQs

What is EMC's WILWorks program?

EMC (Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium), a preferred partner with the Government of Canada, delivers the Student Work Placement Program (SWPP) wage subsidy to Canada's manufacturing and related sectors. EMC is working in partnership with the SWPP team to achieve Canada's Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Strategy, which is meant to drive systemic change in the skills development system by EMC working with post-secondary institution partners to effectively align 'work-ready' skills of students with the skills required by Canada's manufacturers. WILWorks provides value to manufacturing employers by providing wage subsidies to employers that offer quality student work placements.

The WILWorks program supports manufacturers with hiring student talent through internships, co-op placements, practicums, or applied research projects. Through the WILWorks program, EMC creates partnerships with colleges, universities, polytechnics, and CEGEPs, to help develop a pipeline of future employment-ready graduates. The WILWorks Student Work Placement Program is designed to incentivize employers to offer more student positions than they did before leveraging funding.

Beginning Summer 2022 and beyond, eligible work placements must be a requirement as part of the student's study plan. **This can include co-operative education, internships, field placements and applied research projects.** The work placement as part of the student's study plan will be verified when confirming student eligibility.

Why should a company hire a student?

The purpose of the SWPP funding is to motivate employers to increase their number of student work placements, or to create student work placements. Students can support a company's current business needs, work projects and initiatives. The program helps to attract young talent, to gain exposure to students in the work environment, and to create a talent pipeline for future employees.

For employers who have not had student placements in the past, WILWorks provides the opportunity and flexibility to complement a company's 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.**

The Subsidy funds provided must be used exclusively for the WILWorks placement salary support of the named student. The Subsidy is calculated as follows:

- 75% of the student's wages incurred between **May 7, 2021 – April 30, 2022** provided that the total amount of wages reimbursed does not exceed \$7,500.
- 50% or 70% of the student's wages incurred between **May 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023** provided that the total amount of wages reimbursed does not exceed \$5,000 or \$7,000 accordingly



To be eligible for the 70% subsidy amount, the student must self identify in an Under-Represented Group, including:

- First Year Students
- Visible Minorities
- Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Indigenous Students
- Students with Disabilities
- Newcomers to Canada (Immigrants who immigrated within the last five years)

The Government of Canada had extended the temporary relief measures introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic until March 31, 2022. As such:

- There was flexibility with start and end dates, as well as the duration of the placement(s)
- Post-secondary education institutions (colleges, universities and polytechnics) were eligible to serve as an employer and apply for the wage subsidy
- Working remotely, in a safe environment (i.e., from the student's home, or from another self-isolated area) is allowed. There is currently no end date to this measure

Effective Summer 2022, some temporary relief measures introduced in response to COVID-19 no longer apply. These include:

- Post-secondary institutions are not eligible employers
- Subsidy amounts range from 50-70% (up to \$5,000-\$7,000)
- Students hired on WIL placements must be registered at a recognized Canadian college or university, be enrolled in a program or course where a work placement is part of their study plan
- Eligible placements must be "net new" (see below)

What is net new and calculating eligibility?

The SWPP is designed to encourage employers to increase the number of work integrated learning positions that they offer. WILWorks SWPP applications must be "net new" to be eligible – this means eligible positions are over and above what the company has hired in the past (before first participating in the SWP program).

ESDC has re-introduced net new requirements for the 2022-2023 program year, and employers who wish to participate in the SWPP must demonstrate a projected increase in the number of students hired in their "baseline year" versus the number of students they plan to hire in the current fiscal year. The "baseline year" is the fiscal year BEFORE first participating in the SWPP through any delivery partner.

Employers are eligible to receive funding for "net new" placements. The responses to the net new questions in the application platform will calculate the number of eligible placements you can apply for funding for. If your "net new" field is a positive number, that is the number of SWPP applications your company is eligible for in all terms in the 2022-23 program year (through ANY delivery partner). If your net new field is a negative number, the company is not eligible for SWPP funding under the current eligibility criteria of the program. If negative, please do not proceed with the application. Employers



must login to the application platform to determine their net new eligibility.

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

Students must be:

- 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)
- 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***)
- Legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial or territorial legislation and regulations
- Students hired on WIL placements must be registered at a recognized Canadian college or university, be enrolled in a program or course where a work placement is part of their study plan

What are eligible WIL types under EMC's WILWorks SWPP?

Eligible work placements must be paid and must be part of the student's study plan. This can include co-operative education, internships, field placements and applied research projects.

What happens if an employer does not exceed their baseline number after submitting an application, with the net new requirement?

If an employer filled out an application under the assumption they would exceed their baseline number and be eligible for funding, but were unable to fill these positions, the application(s) would be cancelled in the platform and they would not be eligible for the subsidy. With the net new requirement there must be an increase in the number of students hired from their baseline year to today. Employers are required to attest to their net new placements. Should changes arise after the application has been submitted, it is the employer's responsibility to inform EMC that they did not meet the net new eligibility requirements.

Does a multiple term student count as a new hire each term when calculating net new?

Employers can hire students on back-to-back work terms, providing they complete a separate application for that student, each term. Although it is the same student, this would count as separate placements when calculating net new as they are separate terms and separate applications. For example, if you hired a student for Summer, Fall and Winter terms (all within the same fiscal year) that would count as three hires when calculating your baseline and prospective hiring numbers.

What is the process for a manufacturing firm, or a firm in a related sector, 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, Senior Project Coordinator wgray@emccanada.org

and/or, Lynn Morris, Project Coordinator lmorris@emccanada.org



What are the application deadlines?

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

Semester	Deadline
Winter 2022 (Jan – Apr)	Applications Closed
Summer 2022 (May – Aug)	Anticipated Application Deadline: September 2, 2022
Fall 2022 (Sept – Dec)	Anticipated Application Deadline: January 3, 2023

What are the WILWorks program details?

- EMC will support full-time or part-time paid placements as short as six (6) weeks, up 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
- Work placements should be relevant to manufacturing and related sectors
- WILWorks students need to be part of the firm's payroll system so that they can receive their payments (i.e. as it is a wage subsidy program)
- 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 paystubs

What are the eligibility requirements for an employer to participate in the WILWorks Program?

To be eligible for WILWorks SWPP funding, the employer must be:

- A registered Canadian business or organization
- A member of Canada's manufacturing and related sectors
- Not a federal or provincial government organization
- Able to hire a student for a part- or full-time work term, and be able to pay the student consistently
- Adhering to the net new regulations implemented for Summer 2022 terms and beyond
- Able to provide a meaningful work experience for the student

UPDATE:

- Applications for Summer 2022 and beyond will see post-secondary institutions no longer considered an eligible employer as the temporary COVID-19 relief measures have been lifted.

Are employers eligible for WILWorks SWPP Funding if they are also participating in another federal funding program?

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



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

Yes, partial government funds from provincial, territorial, or municipal sources may be permitted. Placements can be partially government-funded, but only funds from non-governmental 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. Employers should consult with the provincial, territorial or municipal program to confirm stacking eligibility.

Who selects the student for a work placement?

The recruitment, the interview, and the selection of a student to fill an eligible WILWorks position is done by the employer. The student must meet the WIL (Work Integrated Learning) requirements.

How does an employer find qualified students?

Employers are encouraged to use their usual recruitment channels to hire students. Employers may also contact the Co-op/Career Services department in nearby post-secondary institutions. Many academic institutions have dedicated job board portals and career events to facilitate the recruitment process.

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

EMC can connect employers to post-secondary institutions in their region, or with programs aligned with the employer's hiring needs.

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.). Students hired on WIL placements must be registered at a recognized Canadian college or university, be enrolled in a program or course where a work placement is part of their study plan.

What are the required placement terms?

Placement and 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 regards to events, or actions, by either party that affect the employment situation for any placement (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 a student be paid?

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 for the WILWorks program before or after a student has been hired. Final



approval is granted upon confirmation of student eligibility.

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

Yes, 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 so long as they meet the net new criteria. 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. EMC will support full-time or part-time paid placements as short as six (6) weeks, up to a maximum of 16 weeks.

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 for the same student 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 and ensure the net new criteria is met. If you have questions, please contact EMC to discuss the process.

What documentation does an employer 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 Surveys
- An invoice and attestation from the employer to EMC
- The student's first and final pay stubs

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 details above)

*Please note the net new requirement was waived throughout the pandemic until March 31st, 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 employer must submit an invoice to EMC at the end of a student's placement. The subsidy will be forwarded to the employer within 45 days of receipt of the invoice and all required supporting documentation. All such invoices must be submitted with a copy of the first and final pay stubs for the



student. These must show the total salary payments made to the student during the placement.

All subsidy payments are subject to EMC's receipt of the above documentation, including the employer's and student's Exit Surveys. Payments are also subject to the continuation of funding from The Government of Canada.

Can a company that does not work in the manufacturing sector apply for WILWorks?

A company may still apply and be approved for a subsidy if the company operates in a manufacturing-related sub-sector. The application will be processed by EMC, or the application will be referred to another Government of Canada approved Delivery Provider. If you have questions about the eligibility criteria, please contact:

Wendy Gray, Senior Project Coordinator wgray@emccanada.org
and/or, **Lynn Morris**, Project Coordinator lmorris@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. These organizations must provide a business registration number or charitable registration number.

Can an employer hire a student who has previously worked with the firm?

Yes, a student can be hired who has previously worked with the firm, as long as all of the eligibility requirements are met.

Can an employer receive a subsidy if the employer hires an immediate family member?

No, an employer cannot receive a wage subsidy for an immediate family member of any current employee. "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 an employer receive a wage subsidy for a recent graduate?

No, the WILWorks program only supports students that are currently registered, full-time or part-time, in a recognized Canadian post-secondary institution.

Can an employer receive a wage subsidy if the employer hires a traditional apprentice?

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

Can an employer receive a subsidy if the employer hires an international student?

No, international students are not eligible for the program. Further to this, international students are not to be counted towards your baseline number when calculating net new, as they are not eligible for the program.



Can an employer receive a subsidy if the employer hires a high school student?

No, this wage subsidy is only for post-secondary students.

If an employer hires a student as an independent contractor, will the employer 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 [Lynn Morris](#) (519-376-0470).