

Funding – COVID-19

The latest updates regarding funding, as of June 1, 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, governments have announced changes to funding programs which means more funding, faster access to the funding and more flexibility.

Since the specifics continue to change rapidly to adapt to these unusual circumstances, we recommend that you contact each funding organization directly for the most current requirements and opportunities.

Innovate BC and New Ventures BC

- › The [Tech Co-op Grant Program](#) and the [Innovator Skills Initiative](#) can be stackable with Federal grants, which means that up to 100% of WIL students' wages could be covered by combining BC and Federal grants programs. For example, through the SWPP programs noted below, as well as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.
- › Since reimbursement will still occur at the end of the placement, it's suggested that you apply for Federal funding first. Proof of wage payments and details of other funding will be required.

New Federal SWPP measures

Temporary flexibility measures for the Student Work Placement Program (SWPP) will be in place until March 31, 2021.

- › Dates/Duration flexibility: Start dates, end dates, hours and duration are flexible. The details are to be worked out between the employer and the post-secondary institution.
- › Work from home: Students are allowed to work remotely, supported by quality interaction with peers and supervisors.
- › Funding up front: For businesses with less than 500 employees and non-profits, SWPP partners can provide 75% of the subsidy at the beginning of the placement, to offset the wages. Typically, funding isn't provided until the end of the placement.
- › NEW** Increased wage subsidies: Typically, employers could receive \$5,000 or \$7,000 in wage subsidies. That has now changed to 75% in wage subsidies, to a maximum of \$7,500 per student.
- › NEW** "Net new" restrictions removed: SWPP usually requires that only "net new" positions be funded. This restriction has been lifted so that all students can be considered for funding, not just new roles or more students than in previous years.
- › Faster approvals: New, faster pre-approval process, with approval within 2-5 days in some cases. Checklists will identify eligible employers quickly and employers will be able to apply for funding prior to selecting the student(s) to hire.
- › Post-secondary institutions: PSIs can apply to be a SWPP employer, including for research positions.
- › Stackable: SWPP can be used in conjunction with provincial funding programs, but not other Federal programs.
- › Contact the programs directly for more info: [Biotalent Canada](#), [Canadian Council for Aerospace and Aviation](#), [ECO Canada](#), [Electricity Human Resources Canada](#), [Information and Communications Technology Council](#), [Magnet](#), [Mining Industry Human Resources Council](#), [TECHNATION](#). See our [Funding Resources](#) for more detailed information on these programs.

Remember... post-secondary institutions across BC and the Yukon are here to assist you during the COVID-19 restrictions and when you are ready to scale up to recover from the economic slowdown. We have access to eager, talented students with the latest skills who can help you quickly build capacity, invigorate research and innovation projects, and fill gaps in staffing.