

FAQs – Youth Work in Trades Award

Q1: Why is the Youth Work in Trades Award (WRK Award) changing to a scholarship?

- Following a comprehensive review of the Youth Work in Trades Award Program, the Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC) and SkilledTradesBC identified several reasons for a redesign of the WRK Award:
 - There were low transition rates to post-secondary trades training among award recipients; enrolment at a post-secondary institution was not a condition of receiving the award.
 - Unpredictable annual program expenditures, given the “automatic” nature of the awards, created challenges for managing the program budget.
 - High administrative burden on SkilledTradesBC, ECC, and school staff.
- In response, SkilledTradesBC and ECC developed a Youth Work in Trades Scholarship (WRK Scholarship) that would encourage students to pursue post-secondary trades training, adhere to the program’s annual budget of \$600,000, reduce administrative burden, and prioritize support for students with demonstrated financial need.
- ECC and SkilledTradesBC recognize the importance of continued incentive funding to engage students in designated trades and help address potential labour market shortages.

Q2: Have the eligibility criteria for this program changed for the WRK Scholarship?

- The eligibility criteria remain the same, with one exception.
- To be considered for the WRK Scholarship, students must continue to meet the following criteria:
 - Registered in the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC
 - Achieved a Dogwood Diploma or Adult Dogwood
 - Completed all four Youth Work in Trades courses: WRK 11A and 11B, WRK 12A and 12B
 - Maintained a C+ average or better in all Grade-12 numbered courses
- The one change to the eligibility criteria relates to the schedule for completing work-based training hours. All students now have up to and including August 31 immediately following their final school-age year to complete the required 900+ hours of work-based training.

Q3: Will there be changes to the application process?

- The application process remains unchanged for students who registered for the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC prior to July 1, 2024. These students will automatically receive an award if they meet the eligibility criteria.
- There is a new application process for those students who register for the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC on or after July 1, 2024. Once these students are eligible to receive a scholarship, they must complete an online application. The first intake period using this application will be fall 2025, and the application portal will be open annually between early September and mid-November.

Q4: How will the application process work?

- Each year, the window for submitting an online application for the WRK Scholarship will run from early September to mid-November.
- Applicants will complete an online application detailing their contact information, Personal Education Number (PEN), SkilledTradesBC Registration Number, Social Insurance Number, and information about their financial need.
- Applicants will upload the SkilledTradesBC statement of employer verified work hours. SkilledTradesBC will only consider hours earned by August 31.
- Applicants will receive a notification from the Ministry confirming the results of their application.
- Once a WRK Scholarship has been confirmed, there is a three-year redemption period to obtain an official confirmation of enrollment in a trades training program at a post-secondary institution or approved training provider and submit this confirmation to the Ministry. Applicants will then be issued their \$1,000 scholarship to the mailing address they provided.

Q5: What if there are more than 600 applications in a year?

- The program's annual budget is \$600,000, which allows for the distribution of 600 x \$1,000 awards.
- If the number of awards requested exceeds the funding available (via the Award and/or Scholarship process), eligibility for the WRK Scholarship will be determined based on the financial need information provided in the online application. Applicants who demonstrate a greater level of financial need will be prioritized for a WRK Scholarship.

Q6: What can the WRK Scholarship be used for?

- The scholarship is to be used to cover expenses associated with recognized, formal trades training at a post-secondary institution or approved training provider beyond the training a student already completed during secondary school (e.g., Foundation, Level 1, Level 2).

Q7: What happens if an applicant's employer pays the tuition?

- If an employer pays for an applicant's tuition for recognized, formal trades training, the apprentice is still eligible to apply for the WRK Scholarship.
- The scholarship can then be used to offset the cost of any remaining expenses, such as mandatory fees, and required tools and equipment.

Q8: What if a student intends to pursue post-secondary trades training outside British Columbia?

- Applicants may apply for the WRK Scholarship to pursue post-secondary training in a Red Seal trade outside of B.C.
- The WRK Scholarship may also be used for Non-Red Seal trades training, but this training must be undertaken in B.C.

Q9: What if a student intends to pursue post-secondary trades training outside Canada?

- SkilledTradesBC does not recognize any post-secondary trades training programs outside Canada, and the WRK Scholarship cannot be used to offset the costs associated with those training programs.

Q10: If unsuccessful in their first attempt, can applicants apply again for the WRK Scholarship?

- Yes, if their initial application is unsuccessful, applicants may reapply until they receive a WRK Scholarship or they no longer meet the program's stated school-age requirements.
- Applicants may only receive either the WRK Award or WRK Scholarship once, however.

Q11: Are graduated students eligible to take the Youth Work in Trades Program and qualify for the WRK Scholarship?

- Yes, students who have graduated can begin or continue the Youth Work in Trades Program and qualify for a WRK Scholarship provided they adhere to the WRK Scholarship's school-age requirements (see Q2 for more details).

Q12: How can I get more information about the WRK Scholarship?

Further questions about the WRK Scholarship can be submitted via email to educ.skills@gov.bc.ca

SCENARIOS – Are students eligible for the WRK Award or should they be applying for the new Youth Work in Trades Scholarship?

The date a student registers for the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC determines whether they're eligible for the WRK Award or the WRK Scholarship. Please read the scenarios below for more detailed information.

Scenario 1

- Student A is 18 and graduated in June 2024 with a Dogwood Diploma.
- They registered for the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC on April 15, 2023.
- They completed all four Youth Work in Trades courses.
- They maintained a C+ average in their grade-12 numbered courses.
- They completed 900 hours of work-based training by June 30, 2024.

Is Student A eligible for the WRK Award or should they apply for the WRK Scholarship?

Student A is eligible for the WRK Award because they registered for the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC prior to July 1, 2024. This registration date determines whether they're eligible for the WRK Award or if they need to apply for the new WRK Scholarship. Student A has met the eligibility criteria, and they will be considered automatically for a WRK Award. They do not need to complete an online application for the WRK Scholarship.

Scenario 2

- Student B is 17 and graduated in June 2024 with a Dogwood Diploma.
- They registered for the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC on April 15, 2024.
- They have completed one Youth Work in Trades course.
- They have maintained a C+ average in their grade-12 numbered courses.
- They completed 200 work-based training hours.

Is Student B eligible for the WRK Award or should they apply for the WRK Scholarship?

Student B can be considered for the WRK Award because they registered for the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC before July 1, 2024. However, they have not yet met all the eligibility criteria. Student B will be eligible for the WRK Award once they have completed all four Youth Work in Trades courses, maintained a C+ average in their grade-12 numbered courses, and accrued 900 work-based training hours.

Scenario 3

- Student C is 19 and graduated in June 2024 with an Adult Dogwood Diploma.
- They registered for the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC on July 5, 2024.
- They completed four Youth Work in Trades courses.
- They maintained a C+ average in their Grade 12 numbered courses.
- They completed 900 hours of work-based training by June 30, 2024.

Is Student C eligible for the WRK Award or should they apply for the WRK Scholarship?

Student C has met all eligibility criteria but must apply for the WRK Scholarship because they registered for the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC on or after July 1, 2024.

Scenario 4

- Student D is 16, and they are entering Grade 11 in the 2024/25 school year.
- They registered for the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC on July 1, 2024.
- They plan to take their first Youth Work in Trades course in September 2024
- They have not yet completed any work-based training hours.

Is Student D eligible for the WRK Award or should they apply for the WRK Scholarship?

Once they meet all eligibility criteria, Student D must apply online for the WRK Scholarship because they registered for the Youth Work in Trades Program with SkilledTradesBC on or after July 1, 2024.