

Apprenticeship, Distance Education and Other Post-secondary Options



Apprenticeship

Apprentices earn while they are training—less, of course, than fully qualified workers. **Apprenticeship** typically lasts between two and five years, and you have to be at least 16 years old to begin. Grade 10 is the minimum qualification, but grade 12 is preferred in most cases. Trade areas include construction, service, motive power and industry.

DISCOVERY


Your choice

Would you rather: go on to higher education, travel and think things over, or enter the working world and train for an occupation?

Links

Your guidance/student services office should have print material on apprenticeship. You can search the Internet for information also: start at the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' website. (Go to <www.careers.nelson.com> for a direct link to this site.) Or search using key words like "apprenticeship," "Canada" and "Ontario."

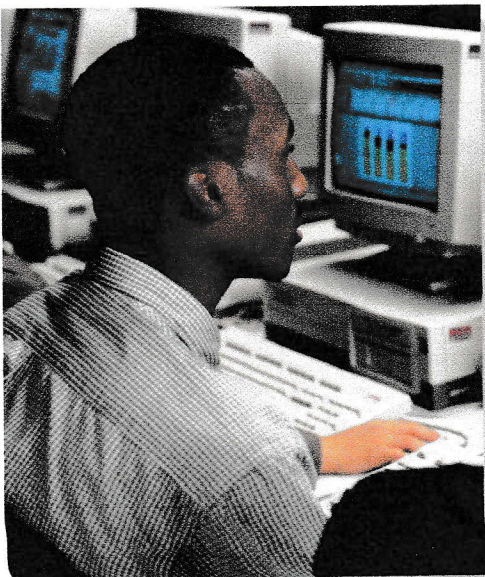
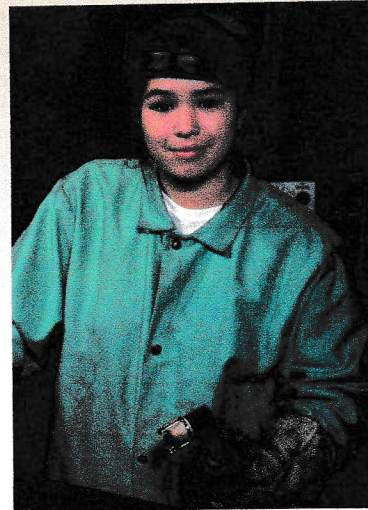
Apprenticeship

Research answers to the following questions: 

1. What is an apprenticeship?
2. How can you become an apprentice?
3. How long does it take to train as an apprentice?
4. What are the advantages?
5. What are the four main apprenticeship areas?
6. What are five trades in each of the four main apprenticeship areas?
7. How much will you earn at the end of the apprenticeship?

Women in Trades and Technology

It used to be that most skilled trades—like plumber, mechanic, carpenter and tool-and-die maker—were done by men. That has been changing. WITT (Women in Trades and Technology) groups exist to encourage women to go into these fields, and to encourage employers to hire them. They also support networks for local women in these occupations. There is a WITT National Network that promotes women in these occupations. Go to www.careers.nelson.com for a link to the WITT site.



Private Vocational Schools

Private vocational schools are also called **career colleges**. They offer specialized training for specific occupations. Many such programs teach computer-related and other technological skills. These colleges are privately owned, but are often approved and regulated by the provincial government.

Private ownership means that these schools are run for profit, so they charge high fees. They claim to find work for a high percentage of their graduates, and they offer night courses. Frequently, you can finish your training faster than you could in a community college.

Their greatest virtue is that they develop new courses continually to comply with specific job requirements. As the industry changes, their courses change. Some are better than others—so do your research carefully!

Private vocational schools

Research information on one private training college. If possible, find a college that offers programs related to one of your preferred fields of work. Look for the same information you found in the university/college activity:

- admission requirements (high school courses and marks)
- courses you would take in first year (you might need the calendar)
- tuition fees for one year of study
- the degree, diploma or certificate you would receive

**Other Colleges**

There are various other specialized, government-supported colleges in Ontario:

- agricultural colleges
- colleges of health sciences
- Ontario College of Art and Design
- Royal Military College

Links

You can search the Internet to find information about most post-secondary options. One good place to start is the Ministry of Education's Career Gateway site. Another is the School Finder website. Another good site with links is maintained by the Ontario Association of Career Colleges. Go to <www.careers.nelson.com> for direct links to these sites.

Distance Education

Distance education offers some students the chance to learn independently without attending an actual school. For some programs, you need a computer and Internet service. Others are still conducted by mail. Distance education can work for someone who is self-motivated.

However, you need to be able to motivate yourself, and to work independently. Many students find they need actual contact with a teacher, and you can't get this over the Internet.

Links

The Ministry of Education's Career Gateway website includes links to Distance Education sites, as does the site maintained by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Go to <www.careers.nelson.com> for direct links to these sites.

ACTIVITY

Travel

You can do this activity individually or in small groups:

1. Research student exchanges. Start with the *National Youth* website, sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada. Answer the following questions:
 - What is the name of the student exchange organization?
 - What does it do?
 - What aspects of the exchange are most interesting to you?
2. Research CUSO:
 - What does CUSO stand for?
 - What does this organization do?
 - What opportunities might it offer you?
 - How would you find out more?

Go to <www.careers.nelson.com> for links to help you with your research.



Focus on Your Best Options

Now that you have completed an overview of options, you can focus on what interests you most. Of course, you are still looking for opportunities that suit you, rather than making definite decisions. The first step is to use good information resources to find as many possibilities as you can. Don't start narrowing your options until you've really explored them.

Links

How much will your post-secondary education or training cost? How will you pay for it? TV Ontario has a website that examines all aspects of choosing a college or university (including cost).

If you are considering apprenticeship, you may have to buy some very expensive tools. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has a program for you if you need it. Go to <www.careers.nelson.com> for links to this information.