

Trades Training and Program Support



Earn while you learn and build a future with us

Trades Training and Program Supports



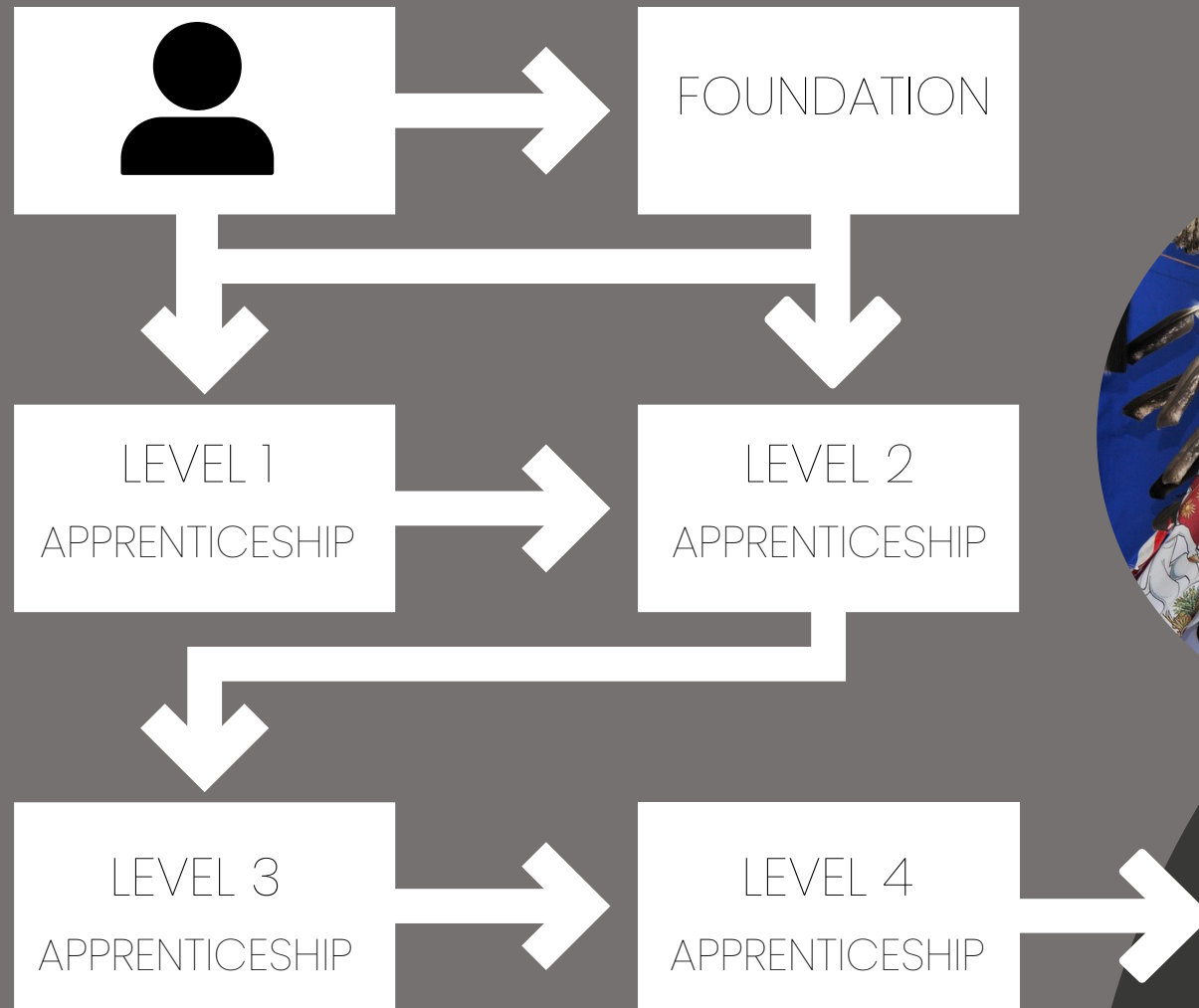
**Okanagan College respectfully
acknowledges that our Kelowna
campus is located on the unceded
territory of the Syilx Okanagan**

Trades Training at Okanagan College

- What is a Foundation program?
- How does an apprenticeship work?
- What is dual-credit?
- What does it cost and what supports are there for me? (or the person I support!)
- What is trades training like at OC?
- What construction trades programs are offered at OC?
- How do I start? (or how does anyone start!)

How it works

Choose a training path that works for you!



Youth Pathways

- **OC Trades Kids Programs** – weekend programs – bike repair, intro to trades, auto masters, intro to tools (grades 7-12)
- **OC Trades Camps** – go-karts, longboards, carpenter and metal camps (grades 4-9)
- **OC Trades Sampler** – full or part-time programs available for 10 weeks to a full term, offered at high schools or on OC campuses, for grades 10-12
- **High school shop classes** – usually Carpenter or Automotive, may have Metal shop (may be some options in middle school as well)
- **Youth Work in Trades/ Train in Trades** – school district and employer coordinated youth apprenticeship – gain school credits and work-based training hours toward apprenticeship, may include Level 1 apprentice technical training as a dual-credit student
- **OC Trades Foundation** program as a dual-credit student – school district pays tuition, student receives credit for high school and from OC

Construction Foundation Program v. Apprenticeship

Foundation

- Introductory program
- 20-30 weeks in length
- Shop and site safety, industry expectations and trades-specific technical training
- Equivalent to Level 1 apprenticeship technical training
- For students new to the trade and not yet apprenticed

Apprenticeship

- Trades-specific technical training
- 6-10 weeks in length, combined with paid training on the job
- Usually 4 levels over 4-6 years
- For SkilledTradesBC registered apprentices working in the trade and actively employed
- All OC construction trades are Red Seal trades

Both require 70% to pass! Study, practice, study some more.

Foundation Program v. Apprenticeship Costs for Level 1 Technical Training

Foundation

- Tuition and Fees (\$4-5K)
- Textbooks (\$400-\$1100)
- Tools (\$400-700)
- Certification/Testing Fees
- Parking
- Accommodation (potentially)
- 6-7 months, full-time school

Apprenticeship

- Tuition and Fees (\$1-1.5K)
- Textbooks (\$400-\$1100)
- Tools (\$400-700)
- Certification/Testing Fees
- Parking
- Accommodation (potentially)
- May need vehicle for work

Foundation Program Supports

- Dual-credit students may have their tuition paid by their school district
- Canada and BC Student Loan eligible
- BC Access Grant eligible
- Canada Study Grant for Dependents eligible (if applicable)
- **\$500,000 in awards available to trades students each year from OC Financial Aid/ donors!**
- Some scholarships and bursaries are available from external agencies
- Merit-based scholarship awards (marks, trades engagement, completion) from \$1000-\$3000
- Financial need-based awards (bursaries) from \$1000-\$6500
- **New: High-school entrance awards of \$6500**
- **New: CHBA Women in Construction award of \$2000**

Apprentice Supports

- Youth apprentices may have their tuition paid by their school district and receive a completion grant (\$1000)
- Eligible for EI while in technical training
- Canada Apprentice Loan eligible (up to \$4000/ level)
- May be eligible for WorkBC Apprentice Services supports while in technical training – travel, living support, dependent care, disability-related costs
- Some employers will reimburse tuition or top-up EI
- Some scholarships and bursaries available from OC Financial Aid/ donors or external agencies such as Southern Interior Construction Association (typically \$1000, usually first or second year or completion)
- Canada Apprenticeship Incentive and Completion Grants (**\$2000 x 3**)
- BC and Canada Tax credits (for adult apprentices)
- Tools Deduction

Skills Training for Employment Program for Young Adults

Through WorkBC Employment Services this program provides skills training and employment supports for young adults (16–29) who are generally employment ready, but face barriers to employment. Find a program near you!

Some Key Points

- **WorkBC Centre Employment Services** - Programs include skills training for Trades Foundation Programs and employment supports to obtain sustainable employment
- **Employment supports** - Address barriers to participation in skills training and employment. Examples include: interview clothing and transportation supports, childcare and work experience.
- **Eligible Participants** - The program stream is primarily open to unemployed or precariously employed young adults aged 16 to 29 who are motivated to find work and are generally employment ready, but may lack effective job search skills, training and support.

WorkBC Contacts Central Okanagan

- Kelowna – p: **778.738.0225**, e: info-kelowna@workbc.ca, workbccentre-kelowna.ca
- Rutland – p: **778.738.2909**, e: info-rutland@workbc.ca, workbccentre-rutland.ca
- West Kelowna – p: **778.741.0155**, e: info-westkelowna@workbc.ca, workbccentre-westkelowna.ca

Construction Trades Programs at Okanagan College

- Carpenter Foundation and Apprenticeship
- Carpenter-Joiner Foundation (includes cabinetry)
- Electrical Foundation and Apprenticeship
- Plumbing and Piping Trades Foundation (includes Sprinkler Fitter)
 - Plumber Apprenticeship
 - Gasfitter Apprenticeship
- Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic Foundation and Apprenticeship
- Sheet Metal Foundation and Apprenticeship

Construction Trades Foundation Intake Locations 2025-2026

Kelowna

- Carpenter – Winter 2025 (tbd)
- Carpenter-Joiner – Fall and Winter
- Electrical – Fall (August), Winter
- Plumbing & Piping – Summer (July), Winter
- Sheet Metal – Winter 2025 (tbd)

Other Campuses

- Carpenter – Penticton and Salmon Arm, Winter 2025
- Electrical – Penticton and Vernon, Winter 2025
- RACM – Vernon, Winter 2025 (tbd)
- Refrigeration and A/C Mechanic – Penticton, Fall and Winter

Academic Requirements for Construction Trades

English 12 and Math 11 (min 67%)
(Physics 11 recommended)

- Electrical

English 10 and Math 11

- Carpenter
- Carpenter-Joiner

English 10 and Math 10
(including Trigonometry)

- Plumbing and Piping Trades
- Refrigeration and A/C Mechanic
- Sheet Metal

All Trades programs require daily attendance due to practical assessments and safety – students may not be able to pass if they miss more than 3 days

Construction Trades Training at Okanagan College

- Each class has up to 16 students
- Lots of individual time with instructor in the shop
- 50-80% theory in classroom, depending on the trade and level
- Both Foundation and Apprenticeship classes run 4 days per week, usually 7:30-3:30
- Trades Success Centre to assist with trades math, study skills, exam prep
- Industry speakers or field trips (in Foundation)
- Trades and general student events such as BBQs, pizza, visits from therapy dogs at exam time, coffee and cookies
- Accessibility Services to support learning accommodations
- Gym access (pass is only \$10!)
- Opportunity to play on OC sports teams if recruited – basketball, baseball

OC Trades Students

- Vary in age from still in high school (up to 5 in a Foundation class of 16 or up to 2 in an apprenticeship class) to mature students, with most students in their '20s
- 35% of Trades Sampler students were female in 2022-23 – our highest year yet!
- More than 20% of Trades Foundation students are now female
- 10-12% of Foundation students are Indigenous
- 7% of apprentices attending training at OC are female

OC Trades Foundation Student Outcomes (2020-22)

- The median age of respondents was 22
- 91% were satisfied with their outcomes
- 95% were working full-time
- Program completers already working as apprentices:
 - 96% for RACM Foundation
 - 86% for Plumbing & Piping Foundation
 - 76% for Electrical Foundation
 - 64% for Carpenter Foundation
- Most construction trades Foundation completers now start at \$22-25/hour

We trained 428 Foundation students in 2023-24!

OC Trades Apprentice Outcomes (2020-22)

- The median age of respondents was 28
- 93% were satisfied with their outcomes
- 99% were working full-time
- 91% received their Certificate of Qualification
- The median hourly wage was \$30
- Apprentices now earn up to \$40 hour by fourth year...
- Gasfitter, RACM and Plumber generally have the highest salaries for construction trades

We trained 1515 apprentices in 2023-24!

Next Steps


- Check out trades careers info at <https://skilledtradesbc.ca/find-your-trade> and <https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers/career-search>
- If you are in high school, talk to your Career Coordinator about dual-credit Foundation or Youth Train/ Youth Work in Trades and Youth Trades Sampler Opportunities
- Visit us as a Student for a Day (or a few days) to spend the day in a Foundation program and see what it is like (Chair contacts on the next page) - must be at least 16
- Review supports for your program and make a plan
- Apply to a Foundation program on Education Planner BC at www.educationplannerbc.ca (\$30 fee) - 9-12 months ahead
- Once you are a registered apprentice with at least 6 months of work-based hours, apply to technical training 9-12 months ahead at www.okanagan.bc.ca/trades-and-apprenticehip (free)

okanagan.bc.ca/trades-and-apprenticeship

Mail - Sara Cousins... Welcome Public Se... New Tab Pink/Red Microfibe... Okanagan College

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Trades and Apprenticeship



home > trades and apprenticeship

The tools for your future are here

Okanagan College offers the newest equipment and technologies in state-of-the-art training facilities located in Kelowna, Vernon, Salmon Arm, and Pentiction. Students master skills taught by industry-leading instructors while gaining hands-on experience. Learn in small classes, in more than 20 different programs that have provincial, national and international recognition. Whether you are seeking Red Seal certification or one-time specialty industry training, education at OC sets you up for a successful career.

Apply now

Already know which program you want to apply for? Skip straight to the application process now!

Entry-level Foundation Program Apprenticeship Program

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Trades and Apprenticeship | x

okanagan.bc.ca/trades-and-apprenticeship


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Set yourself up for success!

The Trades Success Centre can assist you with preparing for the Trades Entrance Exam (TEA). Whether you have been out of high school a few years, are making a career change or have never attended post-secondary education, we can help set you up for success!

Get prepared to write the TEA by contacting Trades Success Centre Coordinator, Elke Pritchard, by email at epritchard@okanagan.bc.ca. Learn more about Success Centres [here](#).



Trades Frequently Asked Questions

Click on "Read Trades FAQ" for a list of commonly asked questions from trades students to help prepare yourself for training.

Read Trades FAQs

Trades in the news

Unleash your potential: Okanagan College invites community to "Try a Trade"

April 3, 2024

Events

Events Important Dates

All Staff Students Community

5:11 PM 4/24/2024

Carpenter Apprenticeship | Okanagan College

okanagan.bc.ca/carpenter-apprenticeship

OC Okanagan COLLEGE


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home > carpenter apprenticeship

Carpenter Apprenticeship

Carpenters build and repair a vast array of structures made of wood, wood-substitutes and other materials. They assemble and erect forms for concrete, wood and metal frame construction and use plans and instruments to prepare for excavating and shoring.



Level 1 = 7 weeks
Level 2 = 7 weeks
Level 3 = 7 weeks
Level 4 = 7 weeks

Share this program

Email Print

Program details Admission requirements Financial incentives Contact **Apply to OC**

Campus

- Kelowna
- Vernon
- Penticton

Credential

Apprenticeship

Delivery options

Tuition and fees

Tuition and fees depend on the level of apprenticeship study.

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Carpenter Apprenticeship | Okanagan College

okanagan.bc.ca/carpenter-apprenticeship

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Level 3

Level 4

How to order textbooks, supplies and equipment online

Training schedule

Admission requirements

Admission requirements

Financial Incentives

Apprenticeship Incentive Grant Form

Apprenticeship Completion Grant

WorkBC and Service Canada support

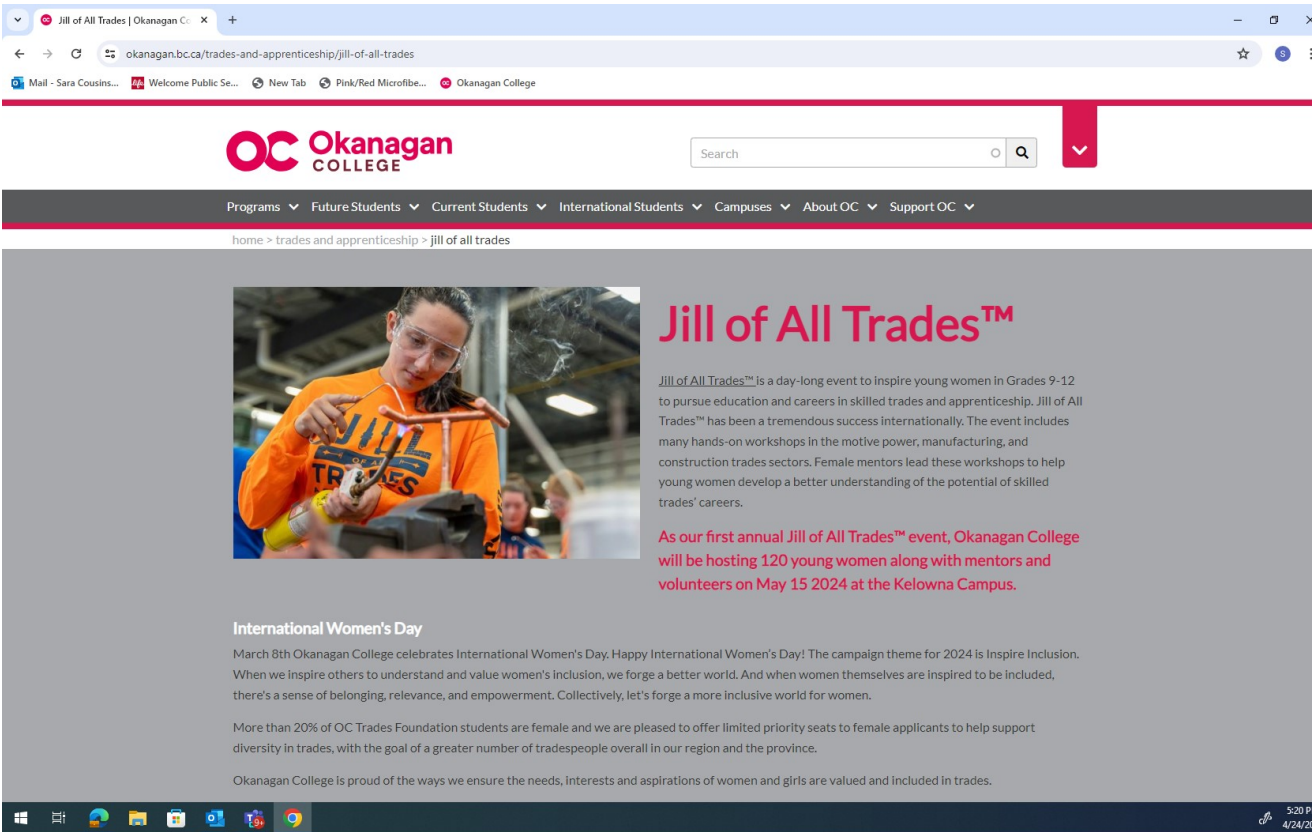
Canada Apprentice Loan

LNG Canada Trades Training Fund

Tradesperson's Tools Deduction

BC Tax Credit

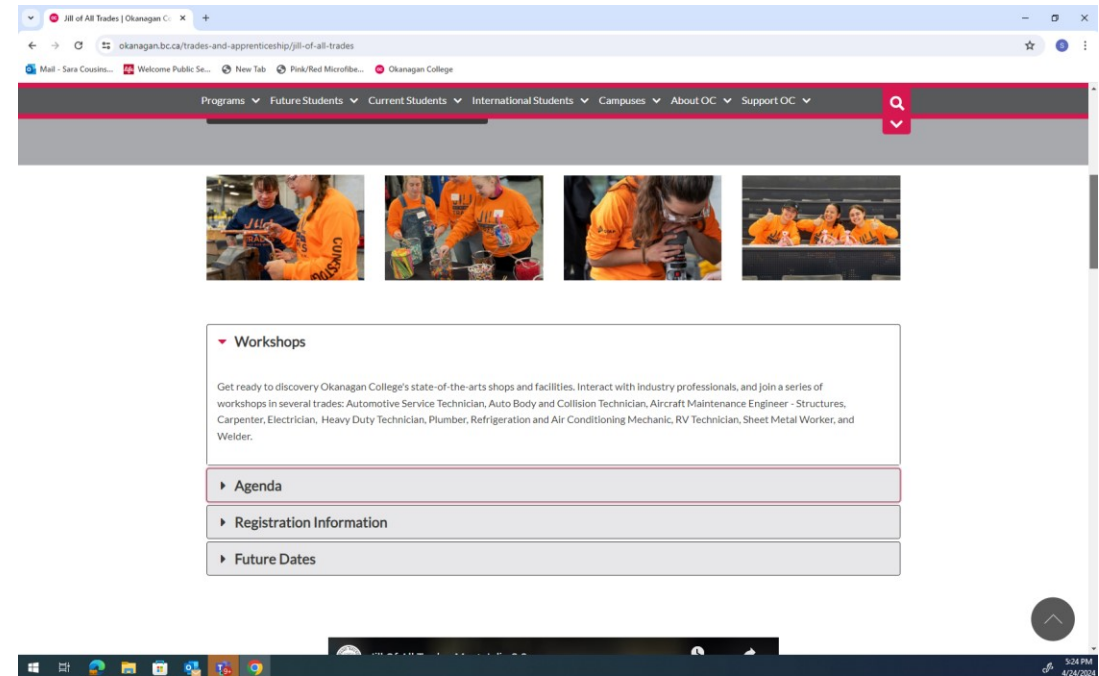
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Special Event for Girls, Grades 9-12

Seats for this May 15 event still available!
Contact jillofalltrades@okanagan.bc.ca

Hands-on Projects in Construction, Motor Vehicle and Manufacturing Trades (including Welding)!



OC Trades Contacts

Sara Cousins, Manager, Trades Programs –
scousins@okanagan.bc.ca

- Trades advising, policies and process, apprentice admission

Kelly Brosch, Dept. Chair, Construction Trades –
cbrosch@okanagan.bc.ca

- student for a day, detailed program information on Carpenter, Carpenter-Joiner, Electrical

Bruce Slater, A/Dept. Chair, Mechanical Building Trades –
bslater@okanagan.bc.ca

- student for a day, detailed program information on Plumber, RACM, Sheet Metal)

Note: Foundation students are admitted through the Registrar's Office, Apprentices are admitted through the Trades Office

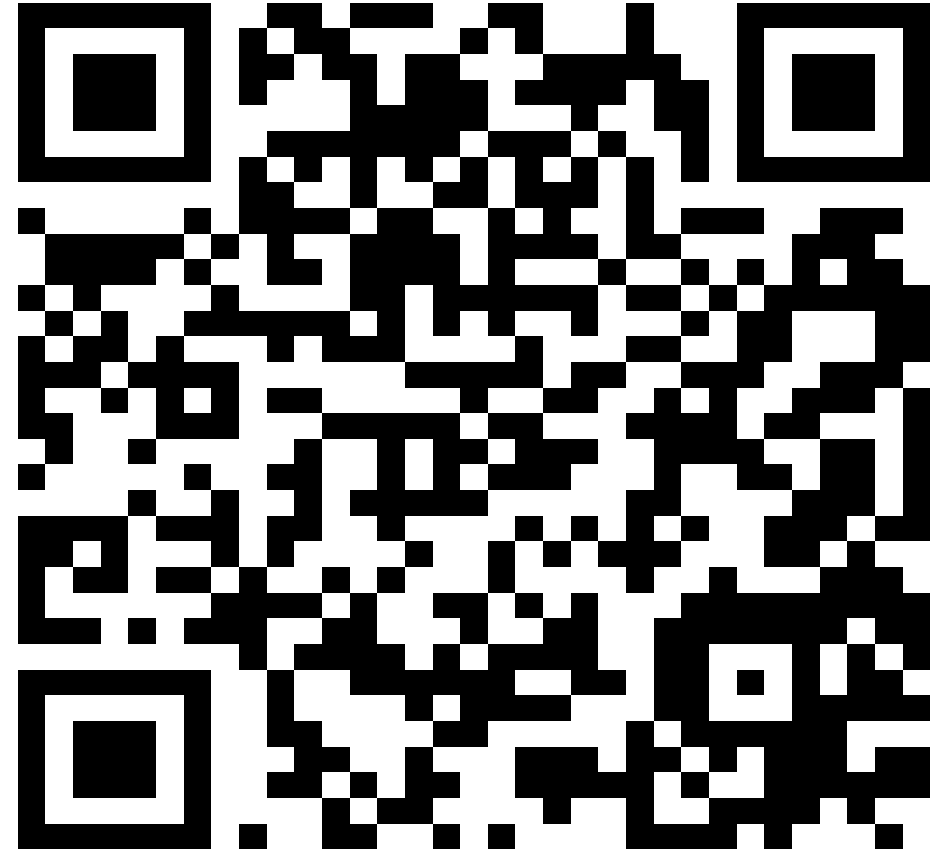
RO contact - Admissions@okanagan.bc.ca

Links for Trades Training Funding and Support Services

- <https://studentaidbc.ca/>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/support-skilled-trades-apprentices.html>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/support-skilled-trades-apprentices/funding-opportunities.html>
- <https://www.workbc.ca/discover-employment-services/apprentice-services>
- <https://www.workbc.ca/find-loans-and-grants/students-and-adult-learners/services-apprentices-and-employers>
- <https://www.okanagan.bc.ca/financial-aid-and-awards>

Okanagan College Financial Aid and Awards

<https://www.okanagan.bc.ca/financial-aid-and-awards>



**Government of Canada:
Skilled trades and apprenticeship Training**

[Supports for skilled trades and apprenticeship - Canada.ca](https://Canada.ca)



Student Aid BC

<https://studentaidbc.ca/>



WorkBC Career Search:

<https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers/career-search>



WorkBC Employment Services:

<https://www.workbc.ca/discover-employment-services/apprentice-services>



Questions?





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