



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

- **What is an apprenticeship?**

An apprenticeship is a form of post-secondary education that combines paid, work-based training (about 80% of training), with technical training in a classroom or shop setting (about 20% of training). Successful completion of both components, along with examinations, is required to earn a certificate or ticket, and become a certified tradesperson. The length of an apprenticeship can range from one to five years, but most require four years to complete. To learn more about apprenticeships see the introduction to apprenticeship page on the ITA website <http://www.itabc.ca/about-apprentices/apprenticeship-basics>

- **What is a YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES program?**

YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES is the technical training component of a trade apprenticeship for high school students. Successful completion of a YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES program will give credit for at least level one technical training (in-class) component of your Industry Training Program and because it is a 'dual credit' program students also receive secondary school graduation credits. To learn more about YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES see the YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES page on the Youth ITA website: <http://youth.itabc.ca/educators/youth-programs/>.

- **What is a YOUTH WORK IN TRADES program?**

YOUTH WORK IN TRADES is the work-based training (WBT) component of an industry training program with a qualified sponsor for high school students. Upon completion of YOUTH WORK IN TRADES, students will have completed 480 WBT hours towards their credential and earned 16 secondary school graduation credits. To learn more about YOUTH WORK IN TRADES see the YOUTH WORK IN TRADES page on the Youth ITA website: <http://youth.itabc.ca/educators/youth-programs/> or the YOUTH WORK IN TRADES Program Guide (Draft) from the Ministry of Education: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/teach/curriculum/english/workplace-program-guides>

- **Can students be enrolled in YOUTH WORK IN TRADES and YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES at the same time?**

Yes, in fact it is encouraged! Apprenticeship continuation rates 18 months after graduation are much higher (over 70%) for students that have taken technical training through YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES and have started their work based training with a sponsor employer as a Youth Work in Trades student.

- **What is the difference between 'Red Seal' and BC trades (BC CofQ)?**

Trades with a Red Seal credential grant workers automatic recognition in all Canadian provinces and territories in Canada and is well recognized internationally. BC Certificate of Qualification trades fulfill the trades needs of British Columbia and are recognized throughout BC. However, depending on the trade, BC trade credentials may not be in other provinces and territories. For a complete list of trades in BC see the ITA website:



<https://www.itabc.ca/discover-apprenticeship-programs/search-programs>.

- **What is the difference between a Foundation program and a Level 1 program?**

Foundation programs are longer programs to teach basic skills and knowledge required for the trade and do not require an employer/sponsor. Completion of a foundation program usually credits the level 1 technical training required for the apprenticeship as well as some work-based training hours. These work-based training hours are not applicable to the Youth Work in Trades Award. A student must be registered with an employer/sponsor in order to register into a level 1 program.

- **How can a YOUTH WORK IN TRADES student do Level 1 Technical Training through YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES?**

YOUTH WORK IN TRADES students need to have a minimum of 1000 hours of work-based training recorded with the ITA in their trade (or permission from the sponsor employer) to be able to register in a level 1 technical training course at an ITA recognized training provider (usually a public Post-Secondary Institution). YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES registration must occur in the YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES intake prior to the start of the level 1 technical training.

- **Can a student begin a YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES program during the summer or any other month of the year?**

Yes, but the student must be registered in the YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES intake closest to the start date of the YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES program.

- **What is the latest a YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES program can end?**

All YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES programs must begin before June 30 of the school year a student turns 19 and may end at any time. However, for Ministry of Education funding, please see [Form 1707 Instructions](#) and [The Recognition of Post-Secondary Transition Programs for Funding Purposes policy](#). For more information on YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES eligibility criteria please refer to page nine.

- **What is the difference between apprenticeships that have level technical training and those that have Progressive Credential technical training?**

Many apprenticeships take around 4 years to complete the Work-Based Training (WBT) and have multiple levels of technical training usually taken after each year of WBT had been completed. Upon successful completion of the final level of technical training apprentices are eligible to write their Certificate of Qualification (CofQ) exam which for most of the popular trades is the Red Seal exam.

Just like regular apprenticeships, Progressive Credentialing trades such as Professional Cook offer certification upon successful completion of a technical training program and a specified amount of work-based training hours. But instead of apprentices serving a multi-year/level apprenticeship before becoming a certified tradesperson, progressive credentialing offers a C of Q at the successful completion of each level. For example Cook used to be a 3 year apprenticeship with 3 levels of technical training. But now that it is a progressive credentialed trade apprentices now gain certifications upon successful completion of Professional Cook 1 (PC1), PC2 and PC3. Each module is its own apprenticeship with a technical training requirement that includes a practical exam, written CofQ exam and WBT hours that must be completed. Professional Cook is a Red Seal trade; therefore the final certification exam at PC3 is the Red Seal exam.

- **Who can sponsor apprentices?**

Apprenticeships are based on mentoring; therefore employer sponsors must have an appropriately experienced individual(s) with the qualifications to oversee the training of apprentices. In BC the supervisor of an apprentice must have a recognized certificate for the trade the apprentice is registered in or be recognized by the ITA as having sign-off authority status. Sign-off authority status is the recognition of previous relevant work in a trade which must be at least 1 1/2 times the length of the apprenticeship's training period (to check which trades offer sign-off authority, click on a trade from the list of trades recognized in BC from the list found on the ITA website to see if there is a sign-off authority application package available). Sign-off authority status is not trade certification, but it does allow an individual to train apprentices in BC. However, a person who has at least 1 1/2 times the length of the apprenticeship's training period of relevant experience in a trade can challenge the Certificate of Qualification exam in order to become certified in that trade (\$120 application fee and successful completion of exam and, depending on the trade, a practical assessment within a year of approval). Those applying for Sign-Off Authority are not required to pay a fee or write an exam.

- **What is an ITA Individual ID?**

After each student is registered, ITA will email the student an ID number and a temporary password for Direct Access. This individual ID number is unique to each student and will not change even when they register for different trades. Students will need their ID number to log into Direct Access, to register for school, to apply for EI or to contact ITA Customer Service.

- **How can Continuing Ed/Adult Students receive an ITA Individual ID?**

As an adult taking level 1 technical training must already be registered into an apprenticeship program with ITA to take level 1, they will receive their ITA ID when they register with their sponsor into an ITA apprenticeship. They can also register for a number through Direct Access (<https://www.itadirectaccess.ca/Login.aspx>). Adult students in a foundation program will receive an ITA ID number at the end of their program. Contact the Youth Administrator ([youth@itabc.ca](mailto:youth@itabc.ca)) regarding questions.

- **How can a student cover YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES costs that are not covered by their district?**

YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES programs are not eligible for BC student loans. Parents should check with their RESP provider or financial institution to see if YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES is a qualifying educational program for an RESP withdrawal or private student loan. Some First Nations also have funds available for members attending trades training.