

Frequently Asked Questions (AIG)

1. What is the AIG?

The Apprenticeship Incentive Grant is a taxable cash grant of \$1,000 per year. It is available to registered apprentices once they have successfully completed their first or second year or level of an apprenticeship program in one of the [Red Seal trades](#).

Specifically, the AIG is meant to:

- help cover some of the tuition, travel and tool costs
- encourage apprentices to complete their apprenticeship program and get their Red Seal, which will allow them to apply their skills and knowledge anywhere in Canada.

2. Who can apply for the AIG?

To be eligible for the AIG, you must be:

- a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or protected person
- out of the secondary school system
- a registered apprentice with an employer, training trust fund, union training centre, joint apprenticeship training committee, or apprenticeship authority
- registered in a designated Red Seal trade in the province or territory where you are a registered apprentice
- able to show progress within an eligible apprenticeship program by proving that you have successfully completed either the first or second year (level/block), based on supporting documents ([eligibility criteria](#))

3. When can I apply for the AIG?

Eligible apprentices are able to apply for the AIG now.

You can apply for the grant if you have completed your in-school technical and on-the-job training for the first or second year (level) of your apprenticeship program on or after January 1, 2007.

4. Will I need to provide additional/ supporting documents along with the application form?

You will need to provide documentation that shows proof of registration. Note that proof of registration is defined by the province or territory in which you are registered as an apprentice.

You will need to provide documentation that demonstrates completion of year/level one or year/level two, such as a transcript or letter from your apprenticeship authority. Detailed information is available at '[Applying for the AIG](#)'.

5. Do I require proof of full-time employment when applying for the AIG?

You will need to indicate the name(s) of your employer(s), contact information, start and end dates of employment for each full time job you have during the year for which you are applying. This information may be confirmed by Service Canada.

6. How long will it take to process my AIG application?

Your application will be reviewed and processed by Service Canada, once a decision on funding has been made which is expected in spring 2007.

7. When will eligible apprentices receive their grant money?

Cheques will be issued by Service Canada once a decision on funding has been made. Eligible applicants will receive cheques once their application has been processed.

8. Why are you accepting applications without formal approval of funding

We anticipate a high demand for the grant. Apprentices are able to apply as of January 1, 2007 to allow ample time for Service Canada to receive and begin entering your information. Service Canada will only finalize the application process once a final funding decision is made.

9. Is the AIG taxable?

Yes, the AIG is a taxable cash grant.

10. Do I need to fill in two separate application forms for each year/level?

Yes, a separate application is required for each grant that is being requested.

11. Am I eligible for more than one Apprenticeship Incentive Grant?

An individual can only receive two grants or a maximum of \$2,000 per person.

12. I am currently registered in a pre-apprenticeship program at my high school. Am I eligible for the AIG?

To be eligible for the AIG, you must have completed your high school or CEGEP program. You must also be registered with an apprenticeship authority, and you must have completed your first year or level of a registered apprenticeship program, in one of the Red Seal trades.

Recently, many provinces and territories have increased their investments in pre-apprenticeship programs making trades training available through pre-apprenticeship programs within the secondary school system.

Pre-apprenticeship programs provide an opportunity for interested individuals to acquire technical skills and gain valuable work experience in a trade before registering as an apprentice with their apprenticeship authority. Some pre-apprenticeship programs enable students to acquire a credit towards the first year of in-school technical training or on-the-job work experience in a registered apprenticeship.

13. Could you provide more information about trades and qualifications for trades?

Training and certification for skilled trades fall under provincial/territorial jurisdiction. Please contact your provincial or territorial apprenticeship authority for more information about trades and qualifications.

Contact information for provincial or territorial apprenticeship authorities is available at: http://www.red-seal.ca/Site/apprenticeship/index_e.htm.

14. What is the Red Seal trade program?

The Interprovincial Standards Red Seal Program was established to provide greater mobility for skilled workers across Canada. The Red Seal program allows qualified tradespeople to practice their trade anywhere in Canada where the trade is designated without having to write further examinations. To date, there are 49 trades included in the Red Seal Program on a national basis which account for over 88% of all apprentices and more than 80% of the total trades workforce in Canada. For a complete list, visit <http://www.red-seal.ca>.

To find out more about Red Seal trades available in your province or territory, contact your provincial apprenticeship authority or visit <http://hrsdc.gc.ca>.

15. Why is my trade not a Red Seal trade?

For a trade to be designated Red Seal, a significant number of provinces and territories should already have it independently designated for apprenticeship

training and certification. It is the industry's responsibility to submit a request for the designation of a trade under the Red Seal Program. A jurisdiction will only consider a trade for designation if an extensive industry base exists, thereby supporting the need for training. Another consideration would be the similar skill sets across the country. National standards, which define the scope of the trade, can only be developed and accepted by jurisdictions if the skills for a specific occupation are generally consistent among the provinces and territories.

16. Who should I contact to obtain more information on the Red Seal Program?

You should direct your questions to the [apprenticeship branch](#) for the province or territory in which you are interested. For general information about the Red Seal Program you can also contact the Red Seal Secretariat at Human Resources and Social Development Canada as follows:

Red Seal Secretariat
140 Promenade du Portage
Phase IV; 5th Floor
Ottawa/Gatineau K1A 0J9
Fax: (819) 994-0202
[E-mail](#)

17. Am I eligible for EI benefits as an apprentice?

Human Resources and Social Development Canada recognizes the income reduction many apprentices can face when attending their technical training. The Department does provide temporary financial assistance through Employment Insurance (EI) Benefits, which are available for apprentices while attending technical training if they have worked sufficient hours to establish an EI claim.

For more information contact Service Canada either online at <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca> or by phoning their general enquiries line at 1-800-206-7218.

18. What is the job creation tax credit for employers?

The Apprenticeship Job Creation tax credit provides a tax credit of up to \$2,000 per year for employers who hire apprentices in the Red Seal trades program.

Additional information will be available on the Canada Revenue Agency Web site at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whatsnew/apprenticeship-e.html>.

19. What is the tool tax deduction for tradespeople?

The Tool Tax Deduction is a deduction of up to \$500 to tradespeople for the cost of tools used for work.

Additional information will be available on the Canada Revenue Agency Web site at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whatsnew/tools-e.html>.

20. Where do I go for more information?

For more information, go to <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca>, call 1 866 742-3644 (TTY 1 866 909 9757), or visit your local Service Canada office.