

# Experience Ontario 2017-18: Student Information Sheet

Have you graduated this year or are you **graduating** by August 2017 and interested in attending postsecondary education or apprenticeship training, but...

- ❖ you are not sure what you want to do after high school?
- ❖ you applied and were accepted to university, college, or apprenticeship training programs but aren't sure if you're ready?
- ❖ you applied to college or university and weren't accepted?

## Experience Ontario may be for you!

You are **invited to apply to Experience Ontario**. Experience Ontario provides a combination of career exploration experiences, career coaching and supports to explore postsecondary education and apprenticeship training (PSE) opportunities.

### The Program

Experience Ontario will begin in September 2017 and runs until Spring 2018. The following are the components of program:

#### 1. Career Coach

Each participant will work one-on-one with a career coach to continue exploring your PSE and career goals and expand on your Individual Pathways Plan. Your coach will help you to identify possible areas of interest and then work with you to find career exploration opportunities. He or she will support you through the entire program.

#### 2. Experience Ontario Conference and Workshops

At the start of the program, you will attend a one day regional conference (all expenses paid) to kick-off the program. At this conference and workshops throughout the program, you will participate in a variety of activities including: personal growth and development, career and PSE exploration, financial planning for PSE and goal setting.

*"I was nervous about going to university because it's far away. The conference helped me learn that I can make new friends and don't have to only be in my small town." – 2015-16 Participant*

*"I learned which business path I wanted to take at college." – 2015-16 Participant*

#### 3. Career Exploration

Your career coach will work with you to find short, unpaid career exploration opportunities (e.g., job shadowing, information interviews with employers) related to your career interests. Your career coach may also be able to help you find paid employment (these jobs may or may not be related to your career interest).

#### 4. Postsecondary Exploration

Your career coach will coordinate postsecondary exploration opportunities (e.g., arrange a visit to a nearby PSE campus or training facility) so you can explore further options at a career centre or program area. You will receive support determining your PSE pathway, including having application fees to an Ontario college or university and first year membership fees for apprenticeship training paid for through Experience Ontario.

*"Doing the program has helped fuel my drive to attend postsecondary." – 2015-16 Participant*

As a result of this program, you will develop a **postsecondary and career plan** to support your next steps.

## Questions and Answers

**1. I know I want to go to PSE but I have no idea of my career path. How can this program help me?**

This program is designed to help you figure out your next steps. Working with your career coach, attending the workshops and participating in career and PSE exploration activities will all support you in planning what you want to do with greater certainty and confidence.

**2. What do I need to do during the program?**

To make the most out of this program, you need to have a positive attitude and an open mind to explore who you are and your potential opportunities. Your career coach is your main contact throughout this program so regular communication with them is very important. The required workshops are developed to help you figure out your PSE and career path and how to get there, so be ready to actively engage in the work. The more you put into the program, the more you will get out of it!

**3. I plan on going right to work after I graduate from high school. Is this program for me?**

The Experience Ontario program is designed to help recent high school graduates who are interested in attending PSE or apprenticeship training in the next two years. If your main goal is entering the workforce after graduating, here are some alternate options to help you transition to the workforce: [www.ontario.ca/page/get-help-finding-youth-or-student-job](http://www.ontario.ca/page/get-help-finding-youth-or-student-job)

**4. I have to take a few high school courses in the fall. Can I still participate in Experience Ontario?**

While we would prefer participants to be out of school completely, we understand there is sometimes a need to strengthen some credits for PSE prerequisites. If you plan to take 1-2 courses, night school or e-learning course(s) through your school board would be most ideal. If, however, you need to go back to school full-time, we can try to work with your school so you can still participate.

**5. Are there any additional supports to help with career and postsecondary exploration opportunities?**

The Experience Ontario program has funding available to support your access to career and postsecondary exploration activities (e.g., transportation within your region, safety equipment). Workshops focussed on job readiness activities like résumé writing and informational interview preparation will also be offered through the program.

**6. Are the career exploration opportunities paid placements?**

The career exploration opportunities are short (1-3 days), unpaid experiences, like job shadowing. The intention is to allow you to try out different opportunities to see which career suits you best. While these opportunities are unpaid, your career coach can help you find a job using other Employment Ontario supports. This job may or may not be related to your area of interest.

**7. Who can I contact for any questions I may have about Experience Ontario?**

Your school contact (see below) will be your first resource for any questions you may have about the program. You can also email the Experience Ontario Team at [experienceontario@ontario.ca](mailto:experienceontario@ontario.ca).

If you are interested in Experience Ontario, please apply by **Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>** at:  
<http://fluidsurveys.com/s/ExperienceOntarioStudentApplication2017/>  
**All applicants will be notified of their program status by end of August 2017.**

**Information needed to complete application (optional):**

School Contact Name	School Contact Email Address:
Mr. R. Bedard, Guidance Counsellor	<a href="mailto:ryan.bedard@lkdsb.net">ryan.bedard@lkdsb.net</a>