



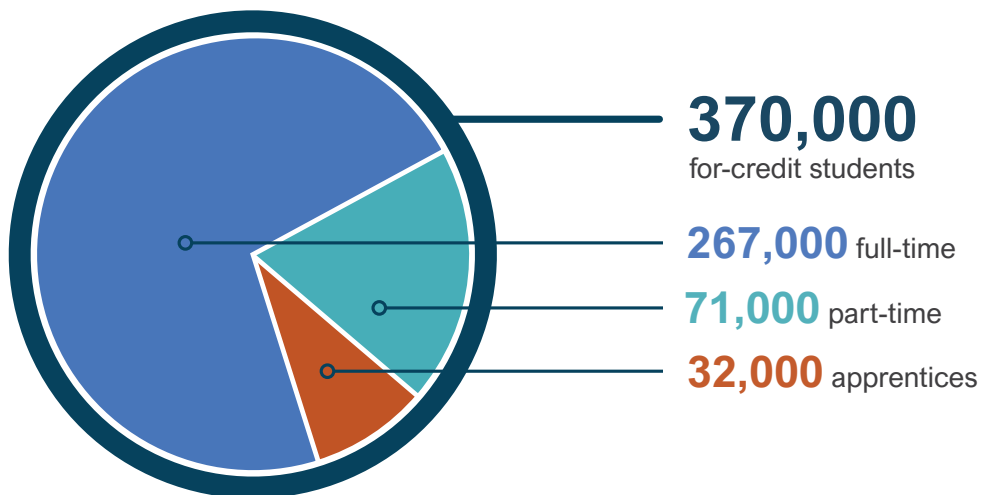
# POLYTECHNICS AT WORK

Canada faces long-term challenges including skill mismatches, weak business innovation and the effects of climate change. Canada's polytechnics contribute practical solutions by building workforce-ready graduates, offering mid-career upskilling and supporting business innovation through applied research.

Polytechnic institutions are focused on strategic workforce development, allowing students to learn alongside industry professionals, to industry standards, using industry equipment. Polytechnics deliver the skills employers demand in 10 key ways:

- Industry-focused programming
- Hands-on learning
- Work-integrated learning
- Applied research
- Continuing education
- International education
- Apprenticeship technical training
- Applied degrees
- Graduate certificates
- Diploma programs

In the 2020-21 school year, our members served:



**105,000**  
graduates

**93,000**  
international  
students



**49% of learners** have previously attended a post-secondary institution



**84% of graduates** found employment within six months of graduating



International students come from more than **140 different countries**

## Credentials

Polytechnics offer a variety of programs tailored to the diverse students and sectors they serve. Learners develop the skills and confidence they need, preparing them for immediate and long-term success in the workplace.

**In 2020-21, Polytechnics Canada members offered:**



More than  
**1,000**  
diploma  
programs



Nearly  
**650**  
certificates



More than  
**400**  
graduate  
certificates



Nearly  
**270**  
apprenticeship  
programs



More than  
**210**  
Bachelor's  
degrees

## Upskilling & Reskilling

More than 90% of Canadian workers and employers believe skills development is important. Polytechnics deliver training to those looking to upgrade their skills or re-enter the labour market. Our members receive hundreds of thousands of continuing education registrations each year, which is no surprise given that polytechnics and institutes of technology are ranked as the most appealing external training providers by Canadian workers.\*

Cost is the main reason Canadians and their employers do not pursue training. **96% of workers are unaware of federal funding programs**, like the Canada Training Benefit, that will help offset the cost of skills development\*



**OUR MEMBERS OFFER**  
affordable courses at an  
average **cost of \$465**

Time is the second greatest barrier to pursuing upskilling and reskilling. **Workers want to be able to complete a course in less than six months\***



**OUR MEMBERS OFFER**  
flexible courses which take  
an average of **37 hours**  
to complete

Nearly **50% of workers feel the pandemic has shown them the importance of upskilling and reskilling** for reasons such as improving job opportunities and changing careers\*



**OUR MEMBERS OFFER**  
nearly **20,000 courses** in a variety of  
fields including health, manufacturing,  
IT and the environment

Employers who previously used polytechnics and institutes of technology for upskilling and reskilling indicated the following benefits:\*

- Increased productivity
- Improved competitiveness
- Facilitated internal workforce transitions
- A more resilient workforce
- Supported economic recovery
- Improved employee relationships
- Filled skills gaps
- Increased workforce retention

\*Research conducted by Leger (2022) on behalf of Polytechnics Canada

# Work-integrated Learning

Polytechnic education offers learners opportunities to work alongside their future employers. Students benefit from experience and exposure to the people, technology and challenges that characterize their future workplaces.

- 100% of polytechnic programs are built around an experiential component or model
- 90% of employers who hired a polytechnic graduate point to practical experience as a key benefit (Leger 2021)

**Polytechnics offer a spectrum of work-integrated learning opportunities including:**

Service learning	Capstone projects	Applied research	Internships	Field placements	Co-op placements	Apprenticeships
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## Applied Research

Applied research refers to an exceptionally broad range of services, such as prototyping and product development, that polytechnic institutions can offer business and community partners to overcome challenges.

### OUR MEMBERS OFFER

**more than 75 applied research spaces** with the equipment and expertise needed to deliver solutions for partners of all sizes, across all sectors.

**In 2020-21, Polytechnics Canada members:**



Leveraged the expertise of  
**1,870**  
faculty



Engaged  
**23,200**  
students



Served  
**2,600**  
partners

Had to **leave behind**  
**715 partners** because  
of inadequate funding\*\*



Conducted  
**3,720**  
applied research  
projects



Developed  
**3,320**  
prototypes



Deployed nearly  
**\$38.7 million**  
in federal funding



Leveraged an additional  
**\$61.9 million**  
from other sources

\*\*As a result of College and Community Innovation Program grant constraints, in 2020, 715 partners had to be turned away by eligible institutions (NSERC 2021)

## Polytechnics Canada Members

If there ever were an institution designed to prepare our population for the workforce of tomorrow, it's the polytechnic. Located in Canada's key economic regions, polytechnic institutions are working in partnership with industry to develop curricula across a broad range of credentials that are aligned with real-time industry needs. The result is a multi-disciplinary talent pipeline with the technical and employability skills to hit the ground running. Polytechnics Canada members also have considerable depth and capacity to partner with industry on applied R&D, making our institutions a destination for employers seeking support with new processes, technology adoption, commercialization and more.



## About Us

**Polytechnics Canada** is a non-profit association representing 13 leading research-intensive, publicly supported polytechnics and institutes of technology. We advocate for federal action in areas where polytechnics provide solutions for a more innovative, productive and globally competitive country.