

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FULL-TIME ESL STUDY

- **Grant Funding**

Students may be eligible for full-time grant funding from the Skills Investment Program of Alberta Employment & Immigration (Alberta Government). Grant funding means students do not have to pay the money back to the government.

- **Informed Choice**

The Skills Investment Program is an informed choice program. This means that students can choose the school/program where they will succeed and be able to get training and employment in the fastest way possible. After a student begins an ESL program at one school, it is difficult to get transferred to an ESL program at another school. Choose carefully!

- **Length of Training**

Full-time grant funding is available for a total of 30 months. This includes ESL and further training (high school credit, certificate programs & some diploma programs). The maximum length for ESL study is 20 months. Time spent in LINC is not considered to be part of grant funding. For degree programs, students must apply for student loans.

Note: ESL is one-time funding. This means that students cannot begin or return to full-time funded ESL classes after they have enrolled in any other training programs (e.g., Work Experience Programs, Training for Work Programs, certificate, diploma or degree programs) or if they stopped ESL training to take a job. Students should be sure that their English skills are strong enough to succeed in other training programs or employment before they leave ESL because they will not be able to return to full-time funded ESL for a minimum of 4 years after they leave. After students begin ESL on full-time funding, they can take a break in their studies only if the student or a member of his/her family has medical issues.

- **Eligibility Requirements**

- **Language**

The student must meet one of the following criteria:

- completed 1200 hours of LINC and has not reached CLBs of 6655 or
- completed LINC 5 (CLBs: 7766) or 1500 hours or
- started LINC 3 years ago or
- is a Canadian citizen (not eligible for LINC) or
- has English skills of CLBs 7766 or higher according the CLBA

- **Age**

The student is 18 years of age or older and out of the regular school system (Kindergarten to Grade 12) for one year.

- **Need**

The student must need training to get employment and need financial help to get this training. Funding is given according to the total household income, savings and expenses. Depending on student need, funding may include any or all of the following: tuition, books, living expenses and daycare expenses.

Note:

- Students who are sponsored can qualify for tuition and books only. The sponsor is responsible for living expenses and daycare.

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