

Program Description

Introduced in August 2021, NEST is a 5-month, full-time, applied learning training program that prepares newcomers and immigrants with the knowledge and skills to participate in the larger social community and economic environment.

The NEST program builds essential and transferable employment skills for enhanced life experiences for participants, as well as offers personalized approach to learning by providing individual coaching sessions, group training focused on applied learning, Canadian Culture, and workplace exposure.

Essential skills are:

- Reading
- Numeracy
- Writing
- Digital
- Problem-Solving
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Adaptability
- Creativity & Innovation



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Contact Information



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 Employment
Programs

Newcomers Essential Skills Training (NEST) Program



 **NEWCOMER
CENTRE**
Thrive Here

Program Overview

This program is delivered to 20 eligible applicants

- 21-22 weeks of full-time classes
- 30 hours per week from Monday to Friday (6 hours per day) from 9:30 am—4 pm
- 90 days (3 months) of supported follow up
- Combination of in-person, online and self-directed study learning

Program Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Reside in Alberta;
- Be a Permanent Resident, new Canadian Citizen or Refugee with Positive Notice of Decision Letter
- Have a Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) of Level 3 to 5 in all skill areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening
- Be highly motivated and committed to completing the program
- Be available to attend the full 5 months of full-time training.
- Must have reliable internet access to participate in online learning, presentations, audio/video communication activities.



Upcoming Programs

Will run from:

September 14, 2026 - February 26, 2027

The NEST program is a hybrid model split between in-class and online learning. Some days students attend in person, and other days they are online. All in-person classes are at our Newcomer Centre downtown location at 10170 112 Street NW.

Get Support With

- Improving your English communication skills
- Understanding Canadian culture
- Learning computers
- Developing relationships
- Increasing your awareness of the labour market
- Conducting a successful job search
- Researching employment or education opportunities for your future

Participant Benefits

- Increase employability or eligibility for further training
- Increase essential skills competencies
- Enhance self-confidence in abilities and accomplishments
- Elevate positive attitude to continuous learning
- Demonstrate initiative through innovation
- Make decisions more independently
- Improve resiliency / ability to cope with change
- Building a social community and network among peers

Funded by

This program is funded by Alberta Advanced Education Foundational Learning Assistance.



Depending on household income, participants may qualify for a monthly living allowance while participating in the NEST program.

