Fast Forward Program

If you are unemployed, eligible for Employment Insurance benefits and plan to return to school to upgrade your education or employment skills, then the Fast Forward program may be able to help. This program offers eligible individuals the opportunity to receive regular Employment Insurance benefits for the duration of their claim while attending approved training. Participants of the Fast Forward Program are responsible for all training costs including tuition and books.

Eligibility Information

To be eligible, you must be unemployed and planning to take part in full-time training that will allow you to increase your skills and knowledge base and assist you to find sustainable employment. As well, you must meet the following conditions:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident legally entitled to work in Canada
- Have a current regular EI claim
- Have been out of secondary school for a minimum of 12 months
- Have been accepted to an eligible training program
- Have a financial plan in place for the full duration of your training
- Be able to pay your own training costs including tuition and books

Applying for the Fast Forward Program

You can apply directly to Employment Nova Scotia by completing an application and mailing it to Employment Nova Scotia or dropping it off at any ENS office.

On the application, you will be asked to describe your employment goals and explain how the training course you have chosen will help you find employment upon completion. You will also need to confirm that you have a financial plan that will allow you to complete your training when your EI claim runs out.

Employment Nova Scotia will review and assess your application and if your application is approved you will be contacted and mailed out a copy of the signed Fast Forward Program Agreement outlining your benefits and responsibilities.
The Fast Forward Program application form can be accessed and printed by visiting: http://www.novascotia.ca/employmentnovascotia/programs/fastforward.asp

To find an Employment Nova Scotia office near you, please visit: http://www.novascotia.ca/employmentnovascotia/contact/ or call 1 (877) 223-0888

Fast Forward Program Duration and Supports

If approved for Fast Forward Program, Employment Nova Scotia will enter into an agreement with you for the full duration of the training program; however, you will only receive regular EI benefits until the end of the regular benefit period.

For example, if the approved training is a two year program and you have 6 months of regular EI entitlement, then a two year agreement will be signed. In this scenario you will only continue to receive regular EI benefits for 6 months unless you qualify for a new regular EI claim during the agreement period.

If you qualify for a new regular EI claim during the agreement period, you must notify Employment Nova Scotia in order to ensure benefits are not interrupted. You must also contact Employment Nova Scotia in advance of returning to school each year to confirm your eligibility and receipt of Employment Insurance.

There will be no additional supports, financial or otherwise, provided by Employment Nova Scotia under this program.

Employment Nova Scotia Program Information

For additional information on Employment Nova Scotia Programs and Services or to find out how to contact one of the Careers Nova Scotia Centres that are located throughout Nova Scotia, please visit our website at:

www.novascotia.ca/employmentnovascotia or call toll-free at 1 (877) 223-0888

About Employment Nova Scotia