



# Student Summer Farm, Food and Fisheries Bursary Program

## PROGRAM GUIDE



Full-time secondary and post-secondary students employed in BC agriculture, food, beverage, or seafood processing, fishing, and aquaculture sectors during the summer season are eligible to apply for a bursary of up to \$3,000.

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The Student Summer Farm, Food and Fisheries Bursary (SSB) Program is funded under the Agriculture and Food Workforce Development Initiative (AWDI). AWDI is funded by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction through the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Agreement. The initiative is a \$15M fund designed to support BC’s agriculture industry to provide a stable and increasing food supply through targeted efforts to recruit and retain a sufficient workforce to meet the labour needs of the industry. AWDI is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF).



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Program Objective

To increase youth and domestic seasonal worker employment in the agriculture sector for the Summer 2026 season.

### Program Goal

To increase youth and domestic seasonal worker employment in the agriculture sector in BC.

## BURSARY AMOUNT

Both secondary and post-secondary students will be eligible to receive the following bursary payments, depending on total hours worked:

	Minimum	Maximum
Hours Worked	250 hours	500 hours
Bursary Amount	\$1,500	\$3,000

Bursary amounts may be prorated for hours worked between 250-500. This will allow 1-4-month blocks of work that are in better alignment with picking/harvesting throughout the summer months.



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants must be:

- 16 years old or older before the first day of the summer season (May 1, 2026)
- Be enrolled in full-time studies in the current academic year and intend to return to full-time studies in the fall<sup>1</sup>
- Enrolled in a designated educational institution
- Legally permitted to work in Canada

### DESIGNATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS INCLUDE:

- Canadian secondary schools, universities, colleges, and certain other educational institutions.
- Canadian educational institutions certified by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) providing courses that develop or improve skills in an occupation, other than courses designed for university credit.
- Universities, colleges, or other educational institutions in the United States that give courses at the post-secondary school level if the qualifying student is living in Canada throughout the year and commutes to that institution.

### Eligible Activities

Applicants must already be hired by an employer within one of the following sectors or seeking a job in one of the following sectors:

- Primary Agriculture
- Food, Beverage, and/or Seafood Processing
- Fishing or Aquaculture
- Nurseries for bedding plants (large-scale/wholesale production)<sup>2</sup>

A minimum of 250 hours must be completed within the summer season to be eligible to receive a bursary payment through the Program. For this program, the summer season is defined as May 1, 2026, to September 1, 2026.

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<sup>1</sup> A full-time student is an individual who is accepted to full-time enrolment in a secondary or post-secondary institution. Each institution may have a different definition of full-time, please consult your school for confirmation.

<sup>2</sup> Nurseries for bedding plants, specifically those involved in large-scale or wholesale production. This excludes garden centers, landscaping and/or farm supply stores (including feed).

## **Ineligible Applicants and Activities**

The following participants, activities and expenses are not eligible to be funded under the Student Summer Farm, Food and Fisheries Bursary Program. This list is not exhaustive and is meant to be used as a guideline.

- Students under the age of 16 during the work term
- Students who aren't returning to school and/or full-time studies in the Fall (following the work placement)
- Part-time students or those enrolled in graduate/post-doctoral studies
- Job placements outside of the agriculture, seafood/food/beverage processing, or fishing/aquaculture sectors
- Job placements outside the province of BC
- Job placements with Farmer's Markets, apiaries, landscaping, garden centres, farm supply stores, Industry Associations, research farms, food security and/or non-profit organizations
- Remote job placements, office and retail positions, social media, events coordination, sales etc.
- Employment with a company based/headquartered outside of BC



## APPLICATIONS

Students are required to complete an online application on the [IAF Client Portal](#). Applications for the Summer 2026 season will be accepted starting January 27, 2026, until program funding is fully subscribed. Notification of the closing date will be provided via the program webpage and newsletter.

Bursaries will be awarded on a first-come first-serve basis. Students may apply without confirmation of employment, however, will only be conditionally approved for a bursary pending the submission and confirmation of employment.

### Important Program Dates

- January 27, 2026 – Applications Open
- To Be Announced – Applications Close



### Application Process

Students will apply through the [IAF Client Portal](#). The application must be completed by the student.

#### Step One: Create an Account

When creating an account, ensure you answer **YES** to the question ‘Are you applying for the Student Summer Farm, Food and Fisheries Bursary Program?’.

#### We’re here to help!

Students can contact [ssb@iafbc.ca](mailto:ssb@iafbc.ca) or 250-940-6150 with any questions about the program or to receive support with their application.

#### Step Two: Apply to the Student Summer Farm, Food and Fisheries Bursary Program

Once you’ve created an account, select Student Summer Farm, Food and Fisheries Bursary Program from the Funding Opportunities, and provide:

- Applicants contact information
- Date of birth
- Bank account for Electronic Funds Transfer payment
- Employment Information (i.e. sector student will work within, estimated hours of work to be completed)
- Confirmation of employment
- Education level information (i.e. high school, post-secondary student)
- Proof of full-time school enrollment



## NOTIFICATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS

### Bursary Notifications and Contracts

If the application is approved, IAF will inform the applicant of the details of the bursary and any associated terms and conditions. The applicant then enters into an agreement with IAF which outlines the obligations of each party.

### Reporting Requirements

Upon finishing the summer work season, the applicant will be required to report and submit proof they completed the minimum number of hours. This includes the submission of paystubs/payroll hours that have been provided by the employer. Students must complete a minimum 250 hours of work with an employer to be eligible to receive the minimum bursary payment of \$1,500. A maximum of 500 hours can be claimed to a bursary payment of \$3,000. Any number of hours worked between 250-500 hours can still be claimed, but bursary payments will be prorated accordingly. All payments will only be issued at the end of the work season. Program participants will be required to complete a survey as part of their final reporting requirements.

### Acknowledgements

This program is funded by the Governments of Canada and BC, therefore; acknowledgment is required when publicly communicating about a project and/or bursary. To ensure appropriate acknowledgments, all communications and marketing materials, including public announcements or social media posts, must be pre-approved by the IAF Communications Team. Materials can be submitted via the [IAF Client Portal](#).

January 2026.

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