

The Sobey School Business Development Center (SSBDC) is a full-service consulting firm engaging skilled professional business consultants while helping to link the business community with faculty, staff and students of the Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University. The SSBDC is currently coordinating the *Work Smarts* program. Through support from Service Canada, *Work Smarts* provides employers a significant wage subsidy to hire a recent graduate (from *any* post-secondary institution).

The SSBDC is currently accepting applications from employers in **New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador** to take part in *Work Smarts*.

The program was developed with the objective of enhancing skills of post-secondary graduates by providing them with relevant career-related experiences.

*Work Smarts* provides:

- A **\$9/hr subsidy** (based on a 35hr work week) for up to **30 weeks** of work experience
- An additional 11.51% coverage of MERC (mandatory employment related costs -CPP, EI, Vacation Pay)
- Assistance with job posting and short listing of candidates
- Training and mentoring for participants to enhance their work experience
- Advice and monitoring throughout the program to ensure participants and employers are receiving the best possible experience

Employer's requirements are as follows:

- Fit under the NAICS High Demand Sector classification for Atlantic region
- Provide a \$9/hr top up (making the minimum salary for a participant \$18/hr)
- Allow participant to attend training as required (two days at beginning, one day toward program end)

The overall objective of *Work Smarts* is to give post-secondary graduates the opportunity to apply the skill sets they developed at school in a work setting that is consistent with their past education and will allow them to become leaders in their chosen fields.

Employers participating in *Work Smarts* benefit by attracting young talent to their organization through subsidized career related positions. This enables businesses to get a head start on long-term hires under the provided subsidy.

Positions must start by **September 1st** at the latest. If your business could benefit from receiving over **\$11,000** in funding to hire a recent graduate, please email [worksmarts@smu.ca](mailto:worksmarts@smu.ca) or visit <http://smu.ca/worksmarts>