IEC BC
IMMIGRANT EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL OF BC

Participant Program Background

PowerHack: Moving from Credentials to Competencies

A series of four hackathons between July 2019 to March 2020

Program Background

PowerHack is a one-day hackathon event that is intended to mitigate the employment barriers of lack of Canadian experience and recognition of international training by providing skilled immigrants and refugees the opportunity to showcase their competencies, skills, knowledge and experience, to solve "real world" problems, to connect with local employers and industry professionals and to build their networks.

How it works

- PowerHack is a one-day hackathon.
- Participants will self-organize into groups with a cross-section of skills.
- Teams work on the problem they have selected.
- Employers, hiring managers and industry professionals will be in attendance to observe and answer questions.
- Subject matter experts will be available to answer questions.
- Three micro-learning sessions will be offered during the day to offer participants additional learning opportunities.
- Participant teams will present their solutions to a panel of judges.
- The teams with the top 3 solutions will receive awards.

Benefits

- Showcase your competencies, skills, knowledge and experience, to hiring managers, employers and industry professionals
- Validate your international training and experience by proposing a solution to a local problem
- Learn from others
- Connect with local employers and industry professionals
- Increase your knowledge of the local tech industry, workplace and hiring practices
- Build your professional networks

Participants will be offered the opportunity to enroll in FAST, at no cost. Through the [FAST program](), candidates will learn more about the essential/soft skills needed for the BC/Canadian tech workplace and will be better prepared to find employment in this field.

What problems are we addressing?

The future of work through lens of skilled immigrants

Sample problem statement:

> *"The gap between traditional education systems and the labour market could grow with increasing automation and digitization, how can we adequately be preparing Canadians and newcomers in retraining and upskilling?"*

The final problem statement(s) will be provided to participants at the beginning of the hackathon.

Eligibility

No programming experience is required.

- Permanent residents
- International skills, knowledge and experience in tech sectors
- Intermediate to advanced English language proficiency (CLB 7+)
- Technical skills (coding, big data, product development, data analysis)
- Experience in business development and talent acquisition
- Motivated and ready to work

Sign up

If you meet the eligibility criteria, please send an email with your resume to powerhack@iecbc.ca. The Project Coordinator will follow-up with you by email and/or phone to gather additional information and answer any questions. Please note that we will do our best to accommodate all eligible participants; however, space is limited.

Dates

There will be four PowerHacks with the first one scheduled for **Saturday, July 20, 2019 from 8 am to 7:30 pm at SFU Segal Graduate School of Business, Vancouver.** The other three events will occur in September 2019, December 2019 and February 2020. Exact dates and locations are to be determined.

PowerHack is a pilot project funded through the Workforce Innovation and Inclusion Project (WIIP). Led by the Diversity Institute at Ryerson University WIIP is a three-year program that brings together employers, non-profits, and settlement agencies to address the employment needs of newcomers and produce a skilled, resilient Canadian workforce. WIIP is funded by the Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and will enhance settlement services delivery and provision across Ontario, Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

Supporters