Columbia College
Vancouver, Canada

Institute in Equity and Advancement in Education

International Centre for Student Success (ICSS)

Equipping international students with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in the workplace and in their community. A focus on ensuring the innovation economy is inclusive and accessible for students with diverse backgrounds. Programs include counselling, tutoring, immigration advisors, career support, and annual events such as the Limitless Conference to support and profile leadership skills amongst international students.

Pilot Programs:

- **Essential Technology and Workplace Skills Program**
- **Community Connections Program**
- **Experiential Learning Projects**
- **Limitless Student Conference**

Vision

An inclusive society where students can access the education of their choice and contribute to positive social change.

Mission

- Become global and responsible citizens
- Can communicate, think critically
- Make a positive impact in communities around the world

Essential Technology and Workplace Skills Program

What is it?

The Essential Technology and Workplace Skills Program's primary purpose is to improve all learner's digital literacy and work-ready skills by providing accessible, up-to-date training modules. The program provides fundamental training in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, as well as a Typing Essentials Program, to ensure students in all disciplines are equipped for full participation in academic programs as well as the future workforce.

Beginning in the 2021/2022 academic year students can also apply to participate in the College's LinkedIn Learning Circle and the 'New to…Series'. LinkedIn Learning Circles provide successful applicants with a free subscription and access to self-directed learning, career support, and workplace skills modules available on the LinkedIn Learning platform. The 'New to…Series' utilizes free, openly available resources created by industry leaders made accessible to students in semi-facilitated workshops. Examples include the New to Digital Citizenship series with Google, and the New to Graphic Design with Canva. All programs are directed towards students of all backgrounds (tech and non-tech).

For who?

Students currently enrolled on a full-time basis at Columbia College in any program.

The Cost and How to Apply?

Free for students studying at the College!

For program details, and to apply, visit the College website under International Centre for Student Success.

Community Connections Program

Practical experience in the workplace provides an important step along the path to career success. For many newcomers it can be incredibly challenging to gain work experience in Canada aligned with their long term career goals.

What is it?

In this program, Columbia College will cover the employment costs for students to take on projects and provide support services to local community benefit organizations. The impact of funds invested in this program is twofold:

- **Aspiring new Canadians get valuable work experience, and build relationships, with local organizations**
- **Local community benefit organizations get additional staff support at no cost**

For who?

A select number of students are placed with local non-profit organizations every semester. Student eligibility comprises the following:

- **Must be a current Columbia College student**
- **Eligible to work in Canada and must have a valid Social Insurance Number**
- **Good academic standing; not on Academic Probation**
- **Completed at least 24 credits as well as ENG 100**
- **Proficiency with Microsoft Office is considered an asset**
- **Previous experience working or volunteering with non-profit organizations is considered an asset**

For program details, and to apply, visit the College website under International Centre for Student Success.

Experiential Learning Projects

Various students in different academic programs take on industry projects via the Riipen platform to equip them with work-ready skills. Riipen brings industry and academic together with real company projects. Students and faculty at the College are supported by a College

Career Advisor to ensure student success. For further details on the program students can ask their instructors or email student services: **ssa@columbiacollege.ca**

Jaspreet Kaur

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

"… this is an amazing opportunity for students to step into the "real" world. The program enabled me to get hands on experience of an office setting in a reputable organization. This program should be encouraged among students to smooth things out in their future careers as it did for me. The involvement and support of the coordinators was very helpful and much appreciated."

Limitless Student Conference

Limitless is an annual conference at Columbia College intended to celebrate student excellence in academic scholarship, as well as to equip students with the practical skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life. The conference features keynote speeches from inspiring leaders, a Careers Fair and the opportunity for attendees to watch their fellow students present on subjects that they are passionate about.

All of the participants and presenters at the conference are international students.

For more information visit: columbiacollege.ca/limitless

Manpreet Shergill

ESSENTIAL TECHNOLOGY AND WORKPLACE SKILLS PROGRAM

"I joined a free Applied Skills Program to learn some basic Microsoft Word skills useful in our academics and daily life. But I learnt more than basic skills from this program and am so grateful that I participated. I would love to continue as an ASP student, if I wasn't graduating this semester. I recommend ASP to those who are really struggling with Microsoft programs and want to enhance their skills in this field."

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