

Connect Canada is a federally-funded, national internship program that links Canadian companies with graduate students and post-doctoral fellows for research placements. Open to companies in any sector and students in any field, Connect Canada is a cost-effective way for companies to conduct R&D while providing students with an opportunity to enhance their graduate studies while gaining real-world experience. Canada interns will apply the latest in research methods and know-how to the most pressing industrial R&D issues.

Benefits of Connect Canada

- For a small investment, companies can maximize their research dollars and in-house capabilities and gain access to a dedicated graduate intern and their academic supervisor (professor) to work on their most pressing R&D issues.
- Connect Canada's funding is stackable, allowing additional ways to leverage other public or private-sector funding.
- Connect Canada does not involve itself in intellectual property generated by the placement. Intellectual property is agreed upon by the company and the intern's academic supervisor.
- Interns gain relevant industry experience through the placements by working on advanced R&D issues that enhance, and in some cases, contribute directly to their graduate studies.
- Connect Canada helps university professors and graduate students partner with Canadian companies of all sizes and in all sectors across the country.
- Short term, cost-effective R&D placements are a great, low-risk way for companies to find future employees.
- The program's quick turnaround on internship applications and a flexible and responsive attitude helps meet industry's fast-paced needs.
- An online database makes it easy to submit a proposal or look for an opportunity.

How it works

Connect Canada internships range from four-to-six months in duration, with at least 50 per cent of an intern's time spent at the company's facilities and the remainder at their home university. Interns are guided by their academic supervisor (university professor) during the entire placement.

Each internship proposal is vetted by a panel of industry and academic experts to ensure it reflects research excellence and appropriately targets a student at the master's or doctoral degree levels or a post-doctoral fellow.

Connect Canada operates on a matched funding system. Companies invest \$5,000 per placement, which is matched by Connect Canada funds, resulting in total funding of \$10,000 to the intern.

About Us

Connect Canada is funded through the Industrial Research and Development Internship (IRDI) program. A five-year grant of 5 million will support a total of 750 internships. Connect Canada is managed by AUTO21 Inc. and the University of Windsor's Centre for Career Education, and is governed by an industry-led board of directors.

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