

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)

NAIT introduces four School of Skilled Trades diploma programs that open alternative pathways to trades-based careers.

The new two-year diploma programs offer students, at any stage of their lives, a direct pathway into trades training with the opportunity to secure employment and become an apprentice after completing their education. Todd Matsuba, Associate Dean in the School of Skilled Trades, says, “this will provide more opportunities for domestic and international students to pursue their careers directly out of high school.” He adds that, “it will also make it easier for anyone looking to make a career change to pursue a trades profession.” This is different than the traditional apprenticeship pathway where students must secure employment in their desired field and accrue the required field hours before attending their chosen program at an accredited apprenticeship training provider.

“The new trades-based diploma programs present exciting opportunities for more learners to build their technical and professional skills within the classroom environment,” says Todd Matsuba. “Students from all walks of life, such as recently graduated high school students, mature learners looking to change careers, and international students can take advantage of the opportunities provided through these programs to transition into their apprenticeship or careers with confidence.” Currently, international students cannot access apprenticeship training in Alberta through traditional pathways; they must first complete an accredited program before entering an apprenticeship contract with an employer.

The new diploma programs complement NAIT’s traditional apprenticeship offerings and provide students with another choice in how they pursue a career in the skilled trades. Like the traditional apprenticeship pathway, the new diploma programs teach learners the current technical skills needed for their careers and prepare them to write the apprenticeship exam required by Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT). Upon successful completion of the diploma programs, graduates can then enter into an apprenticeship relationship with an employer and work towards their first-year apprenticeship status by completing the AIT-required field hours.

Those wishing to further their education after completing their diploma have the option of entering one of NAIT’s post-diploma programs such as the Bachelor of Technology degree or Data Analytics certificate. Alternatively, once students have obtained their Red Seal and have spent three or more years in a management role, they can follow a personalized pathway into NAIT’s Bachelor of Business Administration.

“We’re thrilled to be offering 4 new diploma programs that provide alternative pathways into the skilled trades,” says Sue Fitzsimmons, Vice-President Academic and Provost at NAIT. “These new programs will equip students with the technical and professional skills employers are looking for, while providing opportunities to enter into apprenticeship after completing their studies.”

Applications are open for Advanced Plumbing Technology, Advanced Welding Technology, Automotive Service Technology and Electrical Installations Technology.

About NAIT

The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) is a leading Canadian polytechnic, delivering education in science, technology and the environment; business; health and skilled trades. With nearly 34,000 credit and non-credit students and a 98 per cent employer satisfaction rate, NAIT grads are essential to the provincial economy.

Learn more about NAIT’s skilled trades diploma programs:

nait.ca/tradesdiplomas



NEW Skilled Trades Diplomas

Be equipped for your career with NAIT’s Advanced Plumbing Technology, Advanced Welding Technology, Automotive Service Technology and Electrical Installations Technology programs starting in fall 2021. The diploma programs offer a direct pathway into trades training at NAIT without registering as an apprentice first. After graduating, you can enter into an apprenticeship and complete hours to receive your Journeyman’s Certificate.

WHY CHOOSE THE DIPLOMA PATHWAY?

- ➔ More job opportunities
- ➔ Access to trades training at NAIT without having to find employment first
- ➔ Flexibility to pursue your Journeyman Certificate

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY



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