



Call for Expressions of Interest for Research Study:

Trades to Academic (TTA)/Academic to Trades (ATT) Pathways in BC

Background

BCCAT is committed to ensuring that any possible barriers to successful articulation and credit transfer are identified, and regularly conducts research on various policies, procedures and practices within the BC Transfer System (BCTS) that might affect the efficiency of these processes. One topic identified by the Council's Transfer and Articulation Committee (TAC) as an area of interest for further research concerns student mobility options between trades/vocational and academic programs: identifying existing educational and training pathways, highlighting the range of credit assessment practices as well as any barriers or challenges experienced by students or by institutions—particularly barriers or challenges unique to these pathways—will improve the integration and efficiency of the BCTS overall.

Purpose/Goal

With BCCAT's 2012 Special Report, [Trades to Academic Transfer](#) (McQuarrie) as starting point, this study will provide a current and comprehensive inventory of existing TTA/ATT pathways, primarily within BC, and respond to some of the 2012 recommendations: specific tasks will be to update the 2012 tables of these pathways; identify any barriers or issues unique to creating or operationalizing such pathways; propose mechanisms for effectively making TTA/ATT pathway information visible to students and prospective students; and capture system-wide knowledge as to areas of potential demand for additional pathways, both TTA and ATT. The primary goal of this project is to share information among stakeholders, including the BCTS, industry organizations and students, ultimately to facilitate student mobility.

Scope

TTA/ATT pathways in and out of BCTS member institutions will be the primary focus, and BCTS member institutions will be the primary audience for the report. Current and/or potential TTA/ATT transfer pathways for BC residents to move to/from institutions in provinces outside BC may be noted as well. Academic programs included will be limited to credit programs leading to a certificate, diploma, associate degree or degree; trades and occupations included will be limited to those with Red Seal certification.

Objectives/deliverables

1. An environmental scan of existing TTA/ATT pathway options between BCTS member institutions and Red Seal trades/vocational occupations (updating the tables in McQuarrie's 2012 report, pp. 4 – 5), to include detail on the number of credits awarded and the means or method of assessing/allocating credit (e.g., challenge exam, block transfer, portfolio-based assessment). This scan may include relevant pathway opportunities for BC residents outside of BC, including Blue Seal initiatives in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

2. Data on demonstrated demand for and uptake of existing TTA/ATT pathways.
3. Identification of any barriers/issues unique to students seeking to use TTA/ATT pathways and/or to institutions implementing them.
4. Identification of growth areas/demand for additional TTA or ATT pathways.
5. Recommendations for increasing student/prospective student awareness of these pathways.

Proposed Methodology

1. Upon review of McQuarrie's 2012 Special Report (see p. 8, "Issues for Consideration"), prepare a project plan, indicating the methodology to be used, timelines, costs and deliverables.
2. Confirm the project plan with a reference group consisting of BCCAT staff and selected members of the Transfer and Articulation Committee (TAC).
3. Conduct an environmental scan and review of existing TTA/ATT pathway options for students at BCTS member institutions, including means of assessing/awarding credit and uptake of each pathway option. Data gathering methods might include a review of institutional and relevant industry (e.g., ITA) websites, surveys/interviews with members of relevant Articulation Committees and Dean/Director groups (e.g., BCATTA, BCDASP, BC Business Deans), and consultations with Registrar's and Institutional Research offices and relevant industry organizations.
4. Produce a draft report for review by BCCAT staff and TAC subcommittee (reference group).
5. Finalize the report by responding as necessary to feedback from the reference group.

Qualifications

The successful proponent should possess, at a minimum, the following:

1. Extensive experience in a post-secondary setting, preferably within BC and at a BCTS member institution.
2. A graduate degree in an appropriate field, Red Seal certification or commensurate experience.
3. Demonstrated capacity to conduct research.
4. Demonstrated excellent ability and clarity in written communication.

Timelines and Process

- Expressions of Interest in conducting this research will be accepted until **4 pm, 31st July 2018**.
- Selected applicants will be invited to submit a more formal proposal, including the draft project plan, methodology, timeline and budget, by **10th August 2018**, with a decision date for awarding the project of **17th August 2018**.
- A contract will be finalized and in place by **September 2018**, with completion date falling within the 2018 – 2019 academic year (specific date to be determined through the planning process).

Funding

The maximum funding for this project is \$25,000, inclusive of all hourly charges, travel and associated costs, any supplies and GST.

Queries and Expressions of Interest should be directed to Meg Stainsby, Director, Transfer and Articulation: [e: mstainsby@bccat.ca](mailto:mstainsby@bccat.ca) | [p: 604 412 7682](tel:6044127682).