



FAST (Facilitating Access to Skilled Talent)

Background

FAST helps recent immigrants better prepare to enter the labour market, in positions that make full use of their skills by overcoming employment barriers like international credential recognition and a lack of Canadian work experience.

It is a workplace cultural and technical competency assessment platform that is also occupation-specific.

Company/Organization

Immigrant Employment Council of BC (IEC-BC), in partnership with the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). Content support provided by BioTalent Canada and the Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC).

Country/Region

British Columbia, Canada

Type

Online skills assessment and development platform that evaluates a recent immigrant's skills in light of Canadian standards

Access

Online platform

Tests are comprehensive and exacting. Can take up to 30 hours to complete.

Fee(s)

Free of charge for job seekers. Pricing for employers is not publicly available.

Usership

Eight hundred clients in 68 occupations across skilled trades, biotech and life sciences, and IT and data services (currently testing for accounting, tourism, and hospitality in British



Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia). Early results have shown that 67 percent of landed FAST clients get hired in their fields within one to four weeks of arrival.

Purpose

What is the tool, program, or platform? What does it plan to achieve?

- This online skills development platform lets clients assess their knowledge and skills against standards required for work in Canada. It also prepares newcomers for the expectations and realities of the Canadian workplace.

What are the benefits of using the tool, program, or platform?

- Promotes the integration of recent immigrants into the Canadian labour force, transferring their professional skill sets to work in Canada to enhance success in the workplace
- Helps fill skilled labour shortages in key Canadian industries
- Provides online learning opportunities to prepare for Canadian certifications and clear information about gaps in skills and competencies, in addition to the assessment tool
- Provides free access to these two industry-specific designation programs: BioSkills Recognition Program (valued at C\$200) and Information Technology Professional (ITP)

Who is this tool intended for?

- Recent immigrants to Canada can use this skill development platform to assess their own skills and find commensurate employment in the Canadian labour force.

Clients and Key Stakeholders

What clients/stakeholders are currently using the tool, program, or platform?

- Partnerships with private companies, public sector, and academic institutions

Who is involved with the licensing or use of distribution of this tool, program, or platform?

- Funded by the Government of Canada's Future Skills Centre (Ryerson University, the Conference Board of Canada, and Blueprint)