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Get Paid to Learn at NIC

The Canadian Forces (CF) has accredited North Island College's Industrial Automation Technician program, making NIC students eligible to receive a salary with full benefits while they study.

Industrial Automation Technician graduates can gain advanced standing as a Naval Electronics Technician or Naval Weapons Technician through the Canadian Forces – Non-Commissioned Member Subsidized Education Plan (NCM-SEP). The Plan pays all education and training costs for a CF-approved college program like NIC's, provides a salary while you go to school, an annual vacation, and guarantees you a job upon graduation.

This partnership between the Canadian Forces and Canadian Colleges originated three years ago from a goal to improve the cost effectiveness of occupational training for the Forces, explained Paul Toupin, Manager Canadian Partnership Programs with the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, but it is only recently that it has really caught on. "Until last year, the money set aside for the SEP was never fully utilized. This past year we met the targets in just 9 months," Toupin said. "As a result, the Canadian Forces have reduced their budget for recruitment but increased the funding for the SEP. This speaks volumes about the quality of training and education being delivered by the colleges."

This diploma program begins each year in September at NIC's Campbell River campus. Students learn to work on every type of system, from the simplest fuses and motors to sophisticated electronic computer interface boards, motor drives, programmable logic controllers, solid-state devices and robotics. Graduates acquire a combined total of 1,400 hours of practical training with state-of-the art technology and equipment supplemented with interesting field trips. NIC's Industrial Automation Technician program is also accredited by the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board (CTAB), which recognizes the certification across all Canadian provinces and territories as well as several other nations.

"Eligibility to study under NCM-SEP is a tremendous opportunity and a great way to pay for your post-secondary education," states Don Gillingham Dean, Trades, Technology and Tourism at NIC. "It's a really important articulation agreement. If you are interested in

electronics and want to experience the leading edge of technology, you can come here, take our program, get great training and come out with a pre-made career path.”

To be eligible for the Canadian Forces – Non Commissioned Member Subsidized Education Plan you must be accepted into a CF-approved college program, be a Canadian Citizen and at least 18 years old. For more information please contact an NIC Student Advisor at 1-800-715-0914 and visit <http://www.forces.ca/html> and click on Subsidized Education.

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