

Level UP - Information & Frequently Asked Questions

For Students

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What is Level UP?

An innovative Riipen program that provides **short-term, paid remote work-integrated opportunities for Canadian post-secondary students.**

How does Level UP work?

- Riipen sources and matches students and organizations who collaborate directly on employer-designed projects; Riipen then pays the students a stipend.
- Students can do one or more projects
- Project length: **80 hours per student**
- Projects can be done **individually** (80 hours) or **in teams** (more than 80 hours)
- Project duration: **2 to 8 weeks**
- Students will be paid once the employer approves their project
- Stipend = **\$1400** per student. Every student working on a team project receives the stipend, once the exit survey is completed.

Why is Level UP important for students?

Students benefit from paid work-based learning experiences that enhance their skills, help them form employer networks, and gain career clarity.

Many students are (still) not enrolled in programs allowing them to do a traditional work integrated learning (WIL) experience (internship, placement, coop) or a class-based Riipen WIL experience. Students deserve a chance to gain real-world experience!

Many students don't have the time or bandwidth to invest in a long-term WIL (think about the amazing people in Continuing Education!), but most students can definitely fit a 80-hr project in their agenda especially if they have up to 8 weeks to complete it! And who doesn't want to be paid for the amazing work they produce?

How many Level UP experiences can a student participate in?

Students can participate in as many Level UP experiences as they can/want while eligible for the program.

What is **not** possible is for students to work on the same project, with the same employer, more than once.

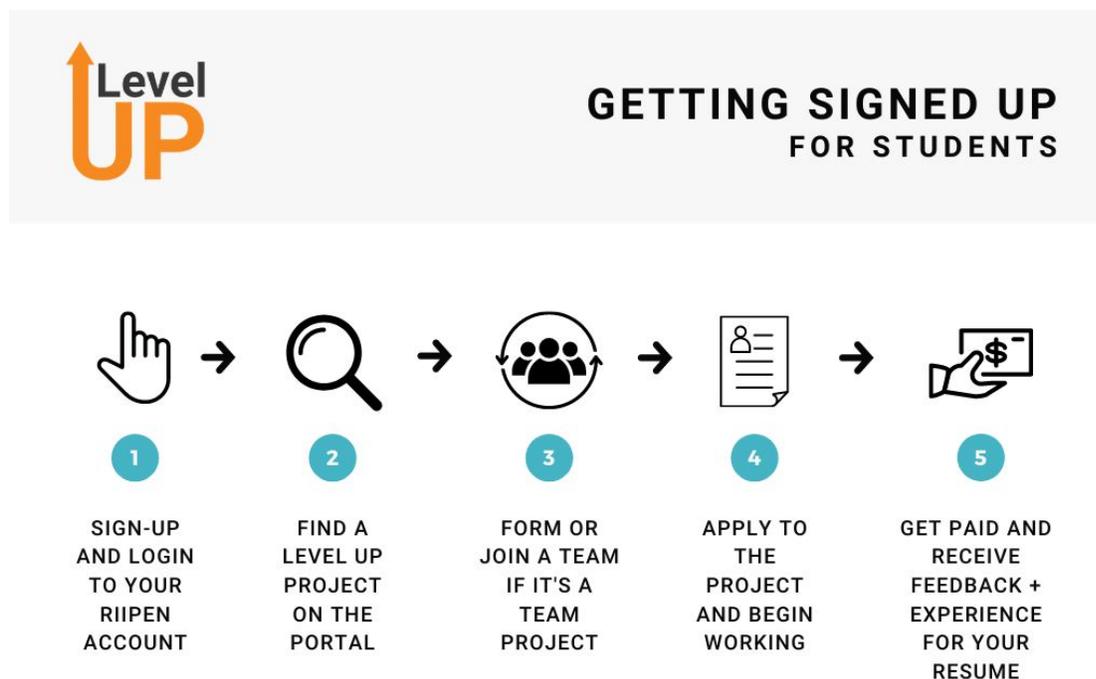
What is the eligibility criteria for students?

Students are:

- registered as students in Canadian postsecondary institutions, with no age limit;
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or persons to whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act; **and**,
- legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial or territorial legislation and regulations.

**Please note that students on temporary work permits and international students are not eligible for the Level UP program.*

What are the steps for students?



Do students need to be enrolled in a particular course/program?

Level UP aims to break down barriers, so it is open to any eligible student irrespective of their enrollment.

How are students paid?

Students will be paid for the project in the form of a stipend. The stipend will be paid directly by Riipen upon completion of the project milestones, submission of the final deliverable, and feedback provided by the employer.

Are students employees of the organization?

No. Students are neither employees of the organization they do a project for, nor of Riipen (who will pay their stipend). As such, students do not qualify for any benefits at either organizations. Students are also solely responsible to declare their earnings to the CRA (and will not receive T4 slips).

How can students apply to team projects if they don't know anyone?

Riipen is opening a [Level UP Riipen student community](#) (powered by LinkedIn). Students will be able to find mentorship there, but also discuss with other students and form teams for those larger projects that are more than 80 hrs and necessitate a team.

How do students apply in teams?

Students will assign one student to be the team leader who will then submit the main application and invite the other team members to apply through a unique link.

How can I apply to Level UP?

Students can apply on the main Landing Page: <http://levelup.riipen.com>

What if my field of study doesn't necessarily match the project stream (ex: I want to apply to a marketing project, but I am not a marketing student)?

Apply to any project you feel you have the right skills for, no matter which program you are currently enrolled in. So if you have the right skills for the project (even if it is not your program of study), feel free to apply and explain to the employer why you are the right candidate.

What if I decide to quit a project halfway; will I be paid for half the work?

Unfortunately, not. Students will be paid once the project is submitted and exit survey is completed, in the form of a stipend. For that reason, students who do not fully complete the project, will not be paid.

Are employers responsible for providing any specific software they would need students to use?

Yes! While many students have access to a lot of softwares via their institution, it is the responsibility of the employer to provide software license/access to students if required to perform the work (e.g. engineering roles).

Would this affect student's eligibility for the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)?

This is up to students and their financial situation. Students must determine if receiving \$1400 or more is going to go against that. CRB works per period and students would earn more doing a Level UP project than they would under CRB.