

Taste A Trade – Cooking

The **Taste A Trade** program at The Employment + Education Centre in Brockville, ON is a Pre-Apprenticeship program looking at five different trades in the cooking sector: Cook (the primary trade), Process Operator - Food Manufacturing, Assistant Cook, Chef, and Baker. The objectives of this 18-week are to

- address a skills shortage in high-demand trades
- increase exposure to the skilled trades
- support potential entrants to apprenticeship training who require job readiness skills and experience to gain employment as apprentices
- help individuals gain employment as apprentices by bridging the gap between the skills people have and the skills employers are seeking.



Participants in the program work closely with an Executive Chef in the kitchen to gain hands-on experience. This experience provides students the opportunity to gain knife skills, kitchen vocabulary, math exposure, product knowledge and a taste of what a career in this sector could look like.

To reinforce and support the student's hands-on learning experience, the program has embedded literacy and basic skills (LBS) via a partnership with Kingston Literacy & Skills.

Participants spend 6 hours a week working on Kitchen Math and Occupational Curriculum that will help build their skills and employment readiness. During the dedicated LBS class, students use common kitchen tools like measuring cups and teaspoons to further cement their learnings and build connections between the kitchen and classroom.

At the end of the six-week in-class program, participants have two six-week work experiences at two different locations. The diversity allows participants an overview of the possibilities of moving forward with an apprenticeship. At the end of the work experiences, participants can move into a registered apprenticeship.