

Program for Black Youth

Capturing the Vision

The [ELITE Program for Black Youth](#) at the University of Alberta was created in 2021 to address the gap between skilled Black Youth in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) and access to experiential learning opportunities. Our mission: to provide meaningful, holistic, work-integrated, hands-on learning experiences in STEMM for Black Youth in collaboration with industry, government, and academia.



In 2021, we hosted our first internship cohort, piloting an innovative internship experience that integrated education on entrepreneurship and wellness. On the heels of that success, we scaled the program, expanding into Ottawa through Carleton University and growing our internship cohort.

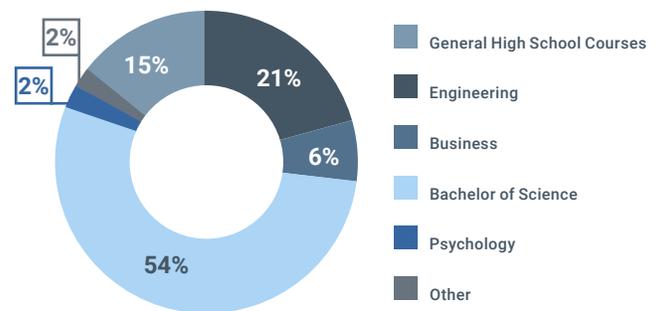
This year ELITE Program Interns achieved and learned more than we could have imagined. We are proud to offer this report as a snapshot of a year of firsts, growth, and change.

ELITE Program 2022 Interns

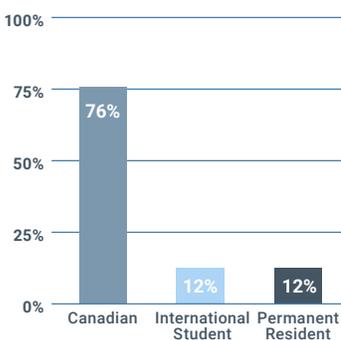
Total Number of Interns: 50

In 2022 the ELITE Program expanded into Carleton University, welcoming five undergraduate interns from their Faculty of Engineering and Design. Program activities were also supported by five PhD students, who piloted peer-to-peer engagement activities during the Entrepreneurship Design Series. Three of these students were recipients of [Indigenous and Black Engineering and Technology](#) (IBET) fellowships.

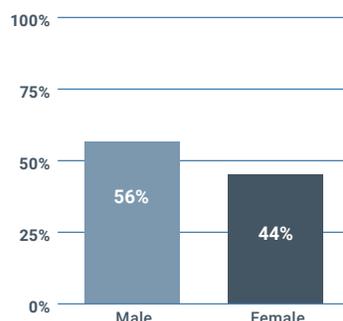
Areas of Study



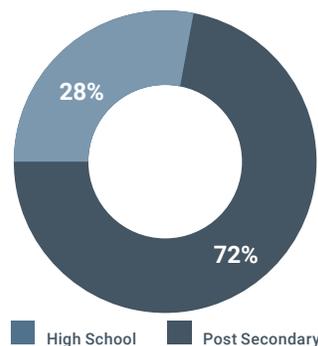
Citizenship Status



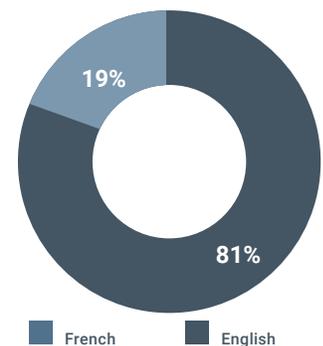
Gender



Academic Level



Language Demographics



The ELITE Impact

- » In 2021, 81% of students said that they were more prepared for the workforce after their internships. This number increased to 94% in 2022.
- » In a pre-survey conducted by the [Black Business Ventures Association](#) (BBVA) interns reported that problem-solving and decision making were the most relevant skills to their careers and internships. Before the program 76% of students reported confidence in their problem-solving skills, after the program this number was 90%.
- » Results from our Wellness and Coaching survey found student improvement in mental health knowledge and skills. Students reported more confidence in their ability to cope with stress, identify microaggressions, and were better equipped to advocate for themselves and others, among other skills.

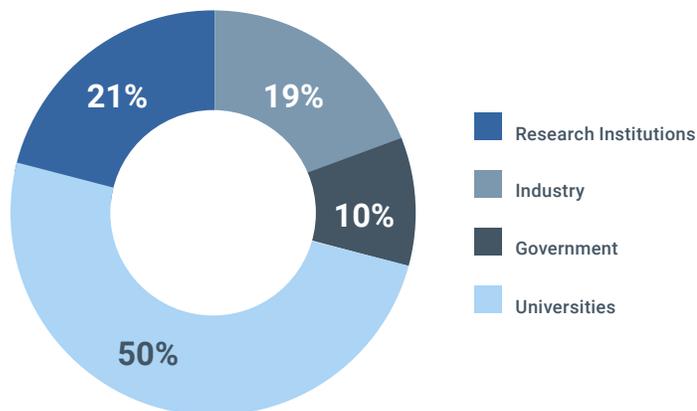
"I don't know everything, and the entire point of this internship is that that's okay. I'm always learning, taking in the feedback from my supervisors and doing better. That's what's important: putting what you learn into practice."

Anurika Onyenso
4th Year Business Management Student



"We all have an entrepreneurial spirit in us, regardless of what field you are interested in. There is no other program that allows you to grow and share your voice like ELITE does."

Siegfried Kahama,
4th Year Psychology Student



2022 Internship Hosts

Our internship host partners included returning organizations Enbridge, Sysco Canada, Token Naturals, Ruth, Williams Engineering, Alberta Health Services, InnoTech Alberta, and researchers at the University of Alberta. We also welcomed new hosts from the Rehab Robotics Lab, the Ontario Health Research Institution, the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, and researchers from Carleton University.

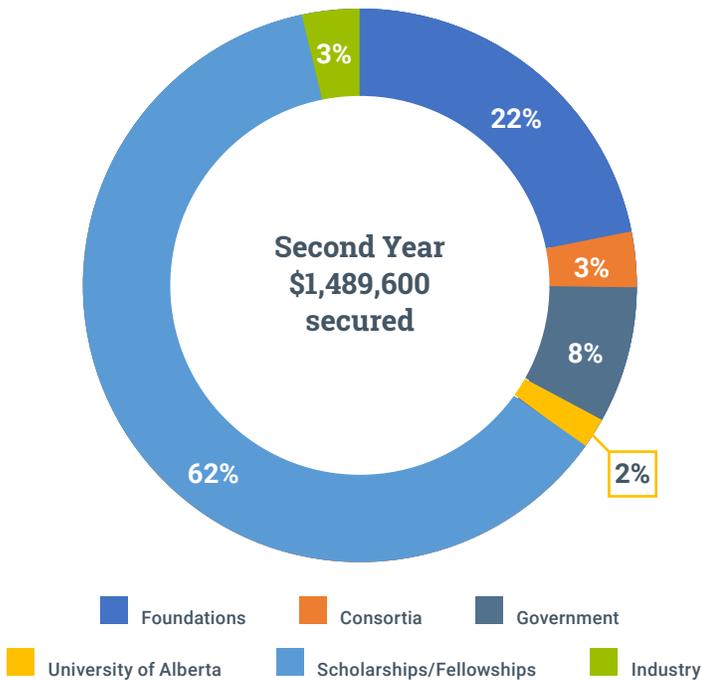
Community Connections

The ELITE Program is made possible through the support of various community partners. This year, the Black Business Ventures Association along with Startup Edmonton at Edmonton Unlimited were integral in the development and delivery of the Entrepreneurship Design Series.



"ELITE is such an incredible program, well organized, purposeful, visionary, and very obviously is making such an impact! It is an honour to be able to work together in this way."

Jennifer Pendura
Director,
Corporate & Foundation Relations, University of Alberta



"My experience of the program is one that has changed my whole perspective of what it means to be a student in STEM"

Imani Murray
4th Year Physiology Student

Financials

In our [2021 Annual Report](#), the ELITE Program for Black Youth reported \$727,630 in cash funding and \$200,000 in scholarship opportunities. In 2022, the ELITE Program secured \$569,600 in cash funding for internships, managed \$720,000 in cash for PhD Fellowships for Black and Indigenous students, and received \$200,000 in scholarship opportunities. The Program has applied for nearly \$3M in cash funding for future activities and work-integrated internships.

Our 2022 sponsors include:

- RBC Foundation Future Launch Program
- The Counselling Foundation of Canada
- Future Skills Centre
- University of Alberta
- Government of Canada Summer Jobs Program
- MITACS
- Alberta Innovates Institutional Support of Entrepreneurship Education Program
- Enbridge Inc.

ELITE

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To Learn More About the ELITE Program for Black Youth:

Visit us at www.eliteprogram.ca
Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
Contact us at elite@ualberta.ca

