

CAREER ACCELERATOR

Work Readiness
Grades 9-12



A two-year experiential learning opportunity for business students across Central Ontario.

This two-year learning experience empowers high school students as they begin to plan future careers. Throughout the two years, students will take part in a variety of exciting events, programs, scholarships and internship opportunities.

JA Central Ontario is approved by the Ministry of Education to fulfill the experiential learning and career exploration components for SHSM. The Career Accelerator is free to students thanks to the generous support of Zurich Canada and the Z Zurich Foundation.

Students will:

- ▲ Strengthen their self-confidence and self-image through experiential learning
- ▲ Develop key soft skills needed to be successful in the Canadian workforce including critical thinking, collaboration and creativity
- ▲ Connect with mentors to explore post-secondary options and learn what life is like after high school
- ▲ Gain insight into the world of work by job shadowing business professionals
- ▲ Learn how to network and create a strong personal brand
- ▲ Understand the importance of mental health in a work context

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Timeline and events



Career Success Skills



An in-school learning experience that equips students with the tools and skills they need to plan a rewarding future in high-growth industries. The curriculum covers topics such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, job hunting and creating a personal brand.

World of Choices



A one-day event that brings students together with volunteer career mentors from a variety of career paths. Students will learn about developing a personal brand and how to identify career paths. They'll also take part in group discussions with Zurich mentors to find out about roles at Zurich Canada.

Job Shadow



A one-day event that students spend at Zurich Canada's Toronto office. During this event, students will hear from industry leaders and mentors from Zurich, gaining insight into the importance of professionalism in getting a job and developing a career.

Innovation Camp



A one-day intensive workshop in which students will work collaboratively to generate creative ideas to address and overcome a bespoke business challenge. With guidance from volunteer mentors, students will create a presentation and pitch their idea to a panel of judges who will determine a winning team.

Award Ceremony



Award winners will be invited to the Zurich Canada office in Toronto to celebrate their achievements.

Internship opportunities



Students who complete the program will have the opportunity to apply to intern at Zurich Canada over the summer of 2025.

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Student requirements:

- ▲ Two-year commitment and attendance at all events and experiences
- ▲ Students should be in grades 10-11 when the program begins
- ▲ Students will complete evaluations during the program to assess learnings and understanding
- ▲ Students will complete a media and communications waiver to participate (students can choose to opt out of media opportunities)

Application process

September 2023

Teachers can express interest in joining the 2023-2025 program

October 2023

JA contacts schools that are successful in their application

November 2023

Career Accelerator begins

[See upcoming events](#)



[Register students](#)