Open Competency Framework Development
Request for Quotes (RFQ)

Opportunity
eCampusOntario is seeking quotes from individuals or teams to support the development of open competency frameworks for in-demand sectors of the labour market to support the expansion of targeted micro-certification activity among post-secondary institutions. This work will be led by industry or community partners to ensure competencies are demand driven and inform responsive educational programming in the future.

Background
At the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in Australia, micro-credentials are used to "certify an individual's achievements in specific skills and differ from traditional education credentials, such as degrees and diplomas, in that they are shorter can be personalised and provide distinctive value and relevance in the changing world of work."[1]

eCampusOntario's work aims to strengthen and expand micro-certification activity in Ontario through a common framework and community of practice. Work in this space includes an annual cross-sector event that brings together education, community and industry partners, as well as research in both global and local contexts. For more information on eCampusOntario's micro-certification initiatives, see here.

In late 2019, eCampusOntario engaged with 14 member institutions and their partners to test the principles and framework as a means to ensure that micro-certification activity is relevant to the labour market and maintains rigorous assessment, evidence and validation standards. In July 2020, eCampusOntario launched another phase of pilot projects with 22 member institutions and their industry partners

Service Description
In addition to micro-certification pilot projects, eCampusOntario has a mandate from the Government of Ontario to explore the development of frameworks that capture the skills and competencies required to ensure a demand-driven approach to filling labour market gaps, inspired in part by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Talent Pipeline Management Initiative.

eCampusOntario is seeking quotes to support the development of common, open competency frameworks for in-demand sectors of the labour market. The competency frameworks will be developed by industry or community partners in public or private sectors to address identified skill gaps.

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[1] https://www.rmit.edu.au/creds/faq

The successful applicant will be well connected to the proposed partner industry or network and will have a robust understanding of the hiring problems that the sector faces. In addition, they will be well positioned to leverage connections to Ontario post-secondary institutions and draw upon expertise in curriculum and program development.

The successful applicant will provide the following support and services:
- Propose one area for common competency framework development, informed by evidence and labour trends
- Work with industry and/or industry associations to develop common, open competency framework(s), including facilitating virtual development workshops/sprints in consultation with eCampusOntario. Note: the frameworks will be openly licensed so that they can be adopted, adapted and updated on a regular cycle to ensure ongoing relevancy.
- Consult educators and administrators in Ontario PSE to socialize common competency framework(s)
- Engage in on-going consultations with eCampusOntario for feedback and support

Timeline
August 14, 2020: Request for Quote applications due
August 19, 2020: Response from eCampusOntario to successful applicant
August 21, 2020: Contract awarded
September-November 2020: Development of workshops and/or sprints with industry
January-February 2021: Consult with post-secondary academic groups to ensure easy uptake of framework
February 2021: Attend eCampusOntario Micro-certification Forum
March 15, 2021: Final report with recommendations. Please note, eCampusOntario will require an open license for report publication.
March 31, 2021: Project ends

Application
Applicants should submit a written response (fewer than 5 pages) to this request for quote, including the following:
- Description of area(s) for developing a common competency framework, including evidence of demand and/or comment on the need from an industry perspective.
- Experience and background
- Process and timeline
  - Outline and milestones detailing development process with industry, including virtual facilitation strategies
  - Outline and milestones detailing consultation process with Ontario PSE, including virtual facilitation strategies
- A complete and detailed quote for all services.

Evaluation Criteria
Quote will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
- Description of area: Proposed area of focus for competency framework is feasible and appropriate within a micro-certification context. Proposed competency framework fills an industry need that is supported by evidence.

- Experience and background: Demonstrated experience in consulting on both industry and Ontario PSE need.
- Process and timeline: Facilitation plan to develop competency frameworks and socialize them is appropriate within project scope and timeline.
- Budget: Proposal costs are detailed and appropriate to the project.

Please submit applications to procurement@ecampusontario.ca by August 14, 2020.