Student Financing Handbook

We want our students to be able to focus on class, not costs. Take a look through this guide to find the best choice for you, and if you're still unsure, our team is always ready to talk through your options.

Payment Policy

Unless otherwise agreed to in a private lending or financing agreement and as approved by Bitmaker General Assembly, all students must pay an upfront payment of $500 to secure their spot in the course. Students are required to pay the remaining full balance at least 7 days prior to the course start date or upon enrolment, whichever is later. 13% HST is applied to all part-time course fees.

Students are allowed to request a payment plan unless a student is enrolled in a one-week course. These payment plans must be approved by Bitmaker General Assembly during enrolment. If a student is partially paying for a course and a third-party is paying the remainder of the course, students can request to participate in a payment plan for their portion of course costs.

Payment Plans

We have payment plan options available for students interested in paying for their program in multiple installments. To aid in your decision-making, we created a guide to help you determine which of our options best meets your needs.

1. Apply for the Bitmaker General Assembly program that you're interested in and go through the admissions process with one of our admissions representatives. Let them know which payment plan option you're interested in.
2. Use the chart below to decide which of our options is best for you.
3. If you've already been accepted into a program, you'll receive an invoice and enrolment agreement.

Students enrolled in one-week courses are not eligible for any payment plans.

Enrolling after the initial installment due date will require payment of any payments due at the time of enrolment.

*13% HST is applied to all part-time course fees.

Payment Plan	Upfront Payment (Application fee)	Payment Installments & Schedule
1/2 Payment Option	All students pay an upfront payment of $500* to secure their spot in the course.	1/2 due 7 days before course start date 1/2 due a month after previous invoice date
1/3 Payment Option (not available to students enrolled in courses less than 10 weeks in length)	All students pay an upfront payment of $500* to secure their spot in the course.	1/3 due 7 days before course start date 1/3 due a month after previous invoice date 1/3 due a month after previous invoice date
1/4 Payment Option (not available to students enrolled in courses less than 10 weeks in length)	All students pay an upfront payment of $500* to secure their spot in the course.	1/4 due 7 days before course start date 1/4 due 3 weeks after previous invoice date 1/4 due 3 weeks after previous invoice date 1/4 due 3 weeks after previous invoice date

Employer Pay

Does Bitmaker General Assembly accept employer sponsorship for part-time courses, Immersive programs, and workshops/bootcamps?

Yes. If you are an individual student, just follow our regular admissions process. You will be able to pay using a corporate credit card, or with your own credit card to receive reimbursement from your employer at a later date. For groups or teams, we encourage you to connect with our Admissions Team to discuss both course options and payment.

What is the enrolment process with the employer sponsorship program?

1. Complete a course application.
2. Speak with our Admissions Team and find the program that's right for your goals.

I'm interested in taking a Bitmaker General Assembly course. How do I find out if my company can help pay for it?

Whether or not your workplace offers an official professional development program, there are several paths to receiving full or partial employer sponsorship:

- Speak with your HR team. Your company may have an employee education budget. Ask whether your employer will pay for your education up front or with tuition reimbursement, and find out any criteria you need to meet to receive assistance.

- Speak with your manager. Talk about how learning new in-demand skills will make a positive impact on your role in the company.

- Speak with our Admissions Team. They'll help you as you complete the standard application process, and answer any questions that come up.

How do I pay for the course?

After getting approval from your employer, we encourage you to either:

- Pay for your program and get reimbursed directly through your employer. You can choose to either pay in full or sign up for one of our payment plan options that break your payments up into installments.

- Pay for your program using a corporate credit card.

- Talk to an Admissions Producer about third-party sponsorship.

Employer Pay (continued)

My company only funds accredited programs. Is Bitmaker General Assembly accredited?

Yes. Bitmaker General Assembly has been accredited since November 2016 by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (formerly known as The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities). Bitmaker General Assembly is subject to all regulations under the Private Career Colleges Act (PCCA), 2005. These regulations can be viewed here and the Private Career Colleges Branch can be reached by telephone at (416) 314-0500.

What are your academic policies?

You can find complete details regarding our academic policies in the student contract. Please reach out to our Admissions team to obtain a copy.

I'm an employer and I want to send multiple employees to Bitmaker General Assembly. Can I do that?

Of course! Please reach out to our Admissions Team to discuss group and team options.

Canada-Ontario Job Grant

Bitmaker General Assembly students with employer sponsorship may be eligible to have a portion of their program fees covered by the Canadian government. The Canada-Ontario Job Grant (COJG) assists employers in providing training to current employees and new hires by sharing the costs associated with third-party training programs.

The grant may contribute upwards of $10,000 in government support per person for training costs. Employers with 100 or more employees must contribute 1/2 of training costs, while small employers with less than 100 employees must contribute 1/6 of training costs.

Additional information regarding the COJG can be found here.

Loan Options

For students interested in financing the cost of their program, they may apply for a loan with our third-party finance partner, Financeit, or open a Student Line of Credit with their personal bank. Below is information about Financeit and Student Line of Credit loan terms, interest rates, fees, and more.

Steps for financing the cost of a program:

1. Apply for the Bitmaker General Assembly program you're interested in and go through the admissions process with one of our representatives. Let them know if you've already applied for financing or are interested in financing your program, but have not yet applied for a loan.
2. Use the table below to decide which financing option is best suited for you.
3. Prepare all possible documents that a lender might ask for **(see right)** to expedite your application process.
4. Once you receive a decision from the lender, let your admissions representative know.

> **Documents a Lender Might Ask For**
>
> - Income verification (offer letters, pay stubs) for themselves and/or their co-borrower
> - Account statements for bank accounts
> - Valid colour government-issued photo ID
> - Residency verification (e.g. utilities bill, lease)
> - Proof of housing payments
> - Proof of payment on certain debts (e.g. car payments, mortgage)
> - Any information to explain past missed payments

* FinanceIt uses a soft credit check in their decision making. Soft inquiries will appear on your credit report, but will not impact your credit score.

** Please contact our Admissions Team to discuss this option.

	Financeit*	**Student Line of Credit**
Who is eligible?	Domestic students only	International and domestic students
Loan options available for	On-campus Immersive, Part-Time and accelerated programs	On-campus Immersive, Part-Time and accelerated programs
Loan amount	Maximum of $10,000, depending on student's approval	Will vary depending on bank
Co-borrower option?	✓**	✓
Deferral period	**Yes** - students will defer principal payments and interest for the first six (6) months following their course start date	Will vary depending on bank
Loan term length	Maximum 4-year loan term	Will vary depending on bank
Interest rate	12.9% after first 6 months	Will vary depending on bank

Financeit is a popular option with current Bitmaker General Assembly students. The majority of our students successfully pay off the loan in its entirety, or close to its entirety, before the end of the initial 6-month period.

Immigrant Access Fund

Immigrant Access Fund (IAF) Canada supports immigrants, including refugees, who arrive in our country equipped with excellent professional skills and knowledge, but face significant barriers to employment. As they lack income, collateral or credit history in Canada, it is difficult if not impossible for them to access mainstream credit.

IAF provides loans of up to $10,000 to internationally trained immigrants so they can obtain the Canadian licensing or training they need to work in their field. The loan can pay for exams, training, qualification assessments, professional association fees, books and course materials, living allowance and other expenses related to obtaining the Canadian licensing or training they need.

To be eligible for an IAF loan, you must:

- Be an immigrant and a permanent resident, provincial nominee, refugee/protected person, or Canadian citizen.

- Be living in a province or territory other than Quebec.

- Intend to work in the same field you had before landing in Canada.

- Lack access to comparable financial resources.

- Not have an undischarged bankruptcy.

Additional IAF information can be found here. You can also reach IAF Canada toll-free at 1 (855) 423-2262.