

## **What is Qualified Candidate Status (QCS)?**

ECO Canada Qualified Candidate Status classifies a program as having pre-approval to engage in the ECO Canada Accreditation process.

## **Who is eligible for Qualified Candidate Status?**

While eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis with ECO Canada's accreditation team, *some* examples of when an institution may apply for Qualified Candidate Status include:

- Institution is *submitting a proposal for a new program* to the appropriate provincial/territorial/national agency to grant education credentials.
- Proposed program for accreditation is new and therefore, must wait *until it has a graduating class*.
- Proposed program is *undergoing a program, facility, or resource change* that they wish to be taken into account during their accreditation process; therefore, would like to delay the accreditation process until the change is completed.

## **What is the application process?**

1. Prospective program expresses interest and if applicable, the accreditation team provides the program with the *Qualified Candidate Status application*. (application fee: \$300 per program)
2. Upon submission and approval of an application, ECO Canada's accreditation team issues the institution an *approval letter* with a tentative timeframe for the accreditation process.
3. Every year, the program will submit an *annual status report* to provide updated information on program development/changes.
4. Pursue full accreditation (timeline determined on a case-by-case basis with accreditation team).

## **When is a program holding Qualified Candidate Status eligible to pursue full accreditation?**

This is determined on a case-by-case basis but will involve discussion between the *program authority* and ECO Canada's *accreditation team*. If the program can provide appropriate documentation to demonstrate that it meets all of ECO Canada's eligibility requirements for accreditation, the program will be invited to continue the process of working toward full accreditation.

## **What are the benefits of holding Qualified Candidate Status?**

- Placement of logo and program link *on the ECO Canada website*.
- Annual Webinar: ECO Canada will host a *virtual presentation* for your faculty and students to share new Environmental Labour Market Research, ECO Canada resources, and more!
- *Access to marketing support*
- *EPT Student Membership*: Free membership for students while the program holds Qualified Candidate Status providing access to career development resources.