

Students show off bricklaying abilities in Vaughan

More than 120 people applied for 10 spots in the program

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Salah Dib lays bricks at the Skilled Trades College of Canada open house held to officially launch its Residential Bricklaying Program. - Susie Kockerscheidt/Metroland

Five Syrian refugees are among the first students in a bricklaying program on display in Vaughan Wednesday.

The refugees included two sets of brothers.

The Skilled Trades College of Canada held an open house to officially launch its bricklaying program.

The college's new masonry program showcased the students' skills as they built a brick wall in their lab space.

This free program kicked off its first eight-week term in January.

More than 120 people applied for 10 spots in the program.

There is a large and growing demand for bricklayers to help build homes across the GTA and Ontario.

The open house was held in the Highway 7 and Weston Road area.

The Skilled Trades College of Canada is a private career college and is a leader in electrical, plumbing, general contracting and construction safety training. The college recently launched the new residential bricklaying program, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an Ontario government agency, and in partnership with Human Endeavour, a Vaughan-based non-profit dedicated to providing opportunity to residents and new immigrants.

Masonry training started in Vaughan on Jan. 29 to create stable and well-paying jobs in York Region and to address skilled labour shortages in the construction industry.