Calling all emerging professionals!!

What is an Emerging Professional (EP)?

An emerging professional is simply an individual who is still a student, or has less than 5 years of post-graduation experience in the lighting industry. There are no age or lighting-related occupational restrictions associated with becoming an EP. If you’re still a student or if you have started working in the lighting industry and have less than 5 years of post-graduation experience then you’re eligible to join!!!

What is the IES?

The Illumination Engineering Society (IES) has been the North American authority for technical and educational aspects related to lighting for the last 100+ years. What separates the IES from other lighting societies is the breadth of professionals that make up its membership. From engineers, architects, designers, educators, students, contractors, distributors, utility personnel, manufacturers, to scientists all 8000+ members have a voice and an opportunity to contribute to the mission of the society: to improve the lighted environment by bringing together those with lighting knowledge and by translating that knowledge into actions that benefit the public.

The Toronto Section of the IES is the largest in Canada and through the strength of its members, partners, and sponsors has become one of the most respected sections in the Society. Our Emerging Professionals Committee is constantly on the lookout for the lighting leaders of tomorrow – if you’re reading this then we’re looking for you!!!
Why do I want to become an EP?

Joining the IES as an EP has numerous advantages. It will add structure to your career development and guide you away from the career freefall that many people experience. There are many avenues you can explore to get involved, it all depends on what your goals are, and how much of your time and energy you’re willing to invest.

How can becoming an EP help me?

Social - You will definitely be introduced to the lighting industry. From other Emerging Professionals all the way up to Industry leaders and many others in between, the opportunities for meaningful networking and the resulting possibilities are endless.

Knowledge - If you’re looking to become more knowledgeable in the lighting industry we offer courses of different levels from fundamentals up to advanced, we also offer study groups for those who want to pass their test to become Lighting Certified (LC).

Leadership - If you want to learn how to become a leader of tomorrow, becoming an EP will expose you to opportunities that you won’t typically find in your job and will accelerate your career development and make you into a stand-out employee... did I mention you will a ton of fun along the way, and you get to keep all of your newly learned skills?

Lots of FUN – From ping pong tournaments, to design challenges, and what we affectionately refer to as “lightwalks” we see Toronto and the surrounding area in a way that you didn’t know existed. We love to socialize with each other and were always looking for opportunities to try new things and visit new places. We’re a friendly, outgoing group of people and you can usually spot us at places as we’re usually the group that’s smiling and having a great time.

EP events can be of a technical nature or to just have fun. We do have some regulars who come out, but generally it’s a different crowd each time....and yes you can bring your friends or coworkers!!! We also get together and get really creative from time to time....
Where is the list of EP events posted?

Glad you asked…the calendar of all section events including EP events is available on the IES Toronto website. Please check it periodically as we are constantly adding new events.

https://toronto.ies.org/events/

Are you ready to become an EP yet?

For those who are ready to enter the lighting industry, becoming an EP is a rewarding way to jumpstart your career while having a lot of fun in the process. You will gain valuable experiences and forge new connections with members of your industry among many other benefits. More information on the Emerging Professional Program can be found by going to: https://www.ies.org/membership/emerging-professionals/

The link to apply for EP membership can be found at:

https://www.ies.org/membership/join-the-ies/
If you have any questions or require more information, please contact the EP Chair Darren Verasammy, P.Eng. at verasammyd@gmail.com

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