

Beyond the Classroom: Experiential Learning in Canada



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South and Central Asia 2024

Meet Your Speakers



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Today's Session

- Post-secondary options in Canada
- Experiential learning in Canada
- Work Experience in Canada
- International Learning Experiences
- Research & Mentorship Programs
- Questions



Post Secondary Options in Canada

- Primarily a public university system
- Has both universities & colleges that are considered post-secondary institutions
- Colleges often offer Associate's Degrees (2 years)
- Universities typically offer Bachelor's Degrees (4 years)
- 1.8M students are enrolled in postsecondary institutions across the country
- Admission is focused primarily on academics, but can vary by program
- Wide variety of academic options available at universities, both academic and non-academic available at colleges
- Canadian citizens have subsidized tuition from the government, while international students will pay the full rate
- Many funding, scholarships, and loan opportunities available



Experiential Learning in Canada

- Experiential learning emphasizes the process of **learning by experience**, or **"learning by doing"**
- 55% of undergraduates participate and benefit from experiential learning, and programs across the country are increasingly featuring these options
- The focus on hands-on, practical experience provides students with the chance to build skills and connections that can help them once they graduate
- Can also be used to help create a lifelong learning mindset
- Wide range of options available under the experiential learning umbrella



Types of Experiential Learning in Canada



ACADEMIC
INTERNSHIP



ADVANCED
DESIGN



ADVANCED
LABORATORY



CO-OP /
PROFESSIONAL
WORK TERM



COMMUNITY-
ENGAGED
LEARNING



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



FACULTY-LED
RESEARCH



FIELD
EXPERIENCE



INTERNATIONAL
EXPERIENCES



LAND-BASED
EDUCATION



ORGANIZATION
PARTNERED
PROJECT



PERFORMANCE
AND ARTISTIC
PRODUCTION



PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICUM



RESEARCH-
INTENSIVE
(STUDENT-LED
RESEARCH)



SIMULATED WORK
EXPERIENCE



WORK STUDY



Work Experience Opportunities



Students can connect work to their academics through work experience – often paid!



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Co-op and Internships

Co-op Programs

- 2 to 6 work terms (paid)
- Alternate study and work terms
- Local & international positions
- Approved jobs shared on co-op specific job board
- Support and preparation can begin as early as first year, or upon entry to the program

Internships

- Work full-time when you are not studying
- Can be paid or un-paid
- May be offered instead of co-op programs
- Typically less pre-work involved before you can apply for jobs
- Offerings available may depend on program of study



Sample Co-op Structure

	Fall	Winter	Summer
Year 1	Study Prep Course 1	Study Prep Course 2	Study Job Search Course 1
Year 2	Work	Study Job Search Course 2	Work
Year 3	Study Job Search Course 3	Work	Study
Year 4	Study	Study	Graduate



PEY & Work-Learn Options

Professional Experience Year

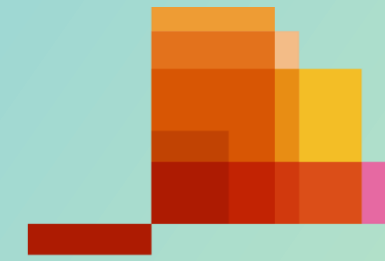
- 12 – 16 month single work term for specific degree programs, such as Engineering
- Work terms are specific to what you are studying and can help connect your work to your academics
- \$35,000 to \$85,000 CAD average total earnings

Work-Learn Options

- Provide the opportunity to work part-time while you are studying
- Typically have a maximum of how many hours you can work per week, to balance work with your studies
- Can choose to work on-campus or off-campus
- Study permit allows for the opportunity to work in Canada as an international student



Sample Companies



Centre for Addiction and Mental Health



United Nations



World Health Organization



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International Learning Experiences



Students can apply their knowledge and skills in a global classroom!



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International Learning Experiences

Exchange Programs

- Options for a semester or year-long exchange
- Various partnerships through-out the world
- Pay home institution tuition fees, not international tuition
- Receive transfer credit for the courses you complete, so your degree won't be extended
- Only major cost difference is cost of living at new place
- Some institutions also offer dual degrees abroad



International Learning Experiences

Summer Abroad

- Specific study abroad options that take place during the summer months, so as not to interfere with the winter academic year
- May be focused on one specific area of study
- Typically offered by home institution and their professors, usually in a group environment
- Will still receive transfer credit for course(s) completed



International Learning Experiences

Practicums and Research Abroad

- Practicum or research is conducted in another country, and funding is often available to support these options
- Research could take place with a partner university or with a professor from your home institution
- Some practicum work placements may be offered abroad, depending on the program



Sample Partnerships



SciencesPo



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



**Tecnológico
de Monterrey**



**Università
Bocconi**
MILANO



香港大學

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



**ÉCOLE
POLYTECHNIQUE**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE**



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Research and Mentorship Programs



Research and mentorship opportunities allow students to leverage and build their skills outside of the classroom



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Research & Mentorship Programs

Research

- Students take part in hands-on research and receive supervised guidance throughout the project from a faculty member
- Vary in duration but would typically be part-time and can last anywhere from a few months to a number of years
- Available as early as your second year of study
- Field research: multiple regions in the world
- Funding and various awards available



Research & Mentorship Programs

Entrepreneurship

- Growing in popularity across Canada and open to all fields of study
- Gain innovation and technical skills
- Entrepreneurship workshops and courses
- Incubators/accelerators/hatcheries help students produce, refine and pitch ideas for start-ups to investors
- Students can consider the challenges and opportunities of starting and scaling a business through the lens of their area of study, helping them understand the applicability of their degree



Sample Partnerships

UBC Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystem Services

Okanagan Basin WATER BOARD

Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program

South Okanagan Similkameen CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS INC. A Member of the Associated Engineering Group of Companies

MANTEO RESORT WATERFRONT HOTEL & VILLAS

Community-Based Research Canada
Recherche partenariale du Canada

IC-IMPACTS

NSERC
CRSNG

LSO
LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO

Digital Research Alliance of Canada | Alliance de recherche numérique du Canada

Institute for Community Engaged Research

BC Children's Hospital™

neuro

Mila

CEPSI Centre d'études sur la paix et la sécurité internationale

CIPSS Centre for International Peace and Security Studies

CIR
MMT

Centre for Indigenous Fisheries

bmsc BAMFIELD MARINE SCIENCES CENTRE

TRIUMF

University of Victoria UBC SFU SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



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THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?



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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!



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