

Interdisciplinary Co-op Education, UBC Okanagan: Annual Report 2020-2021



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Interdisciplinary Co-op Education
Okanagan Campus



UBC Okanagan Co-op Program

Initiative, confidence, resilience and creativity. Through Co-op, students engage in enriched educational experiences through workplace learning in a diversity of organizations.

Employers hiring Co-op students come from a broad range of sectors and workplaces, including public organizations, non-profit agencies and large corporations, to small businesses and entrepreneurial start-ups across Canada. The UBC Okanagan Interdisciplinary Co-op Program is diverse for students too—open to undergraduate students in Arts, Fine Arts, Human Kinetics, Management, Media Studies and Science.

The UBC Okanagan Interdisciplinary Co-op Program works to ensure both students and employers have positive workplace learning experiences. Employer partners report the best feature of Co-op is the quality of applicants. The UBC Okanagan Co-op is a competitive program, and all applicants are pre-screened and are provided training to prepare them for the workplace employment experience. Committed to continued program growth and development, UBC's Co-op programs across both campuses have recently assessed and created cohesive pre-employment training and modules to ensure a common curriculum that can be used across various faculties at both campuses.

Student applications into the Co-op Program are assessed based on the eligibility criteria and their ability to demonstrate positive employability traits. These traits include (but are not limited to): maturity, career motivation, strong communication skills, and organization.

Participating in the Co-op program also offers community partners the following benefits:

- **Flexible:** Hire for 4, 8 or 12 months at time, and year-round, beginning January, May or September.
- **Creativity & Innovation:** Students are eager to offer their fresh perspective and inject new ideas.
- **Top Talent:** Students are pre-screened and receive UBC Co-op job readiness support.
- **Hiring Incentives:** Grants can subsidize the cost of training and integrating students into positions.



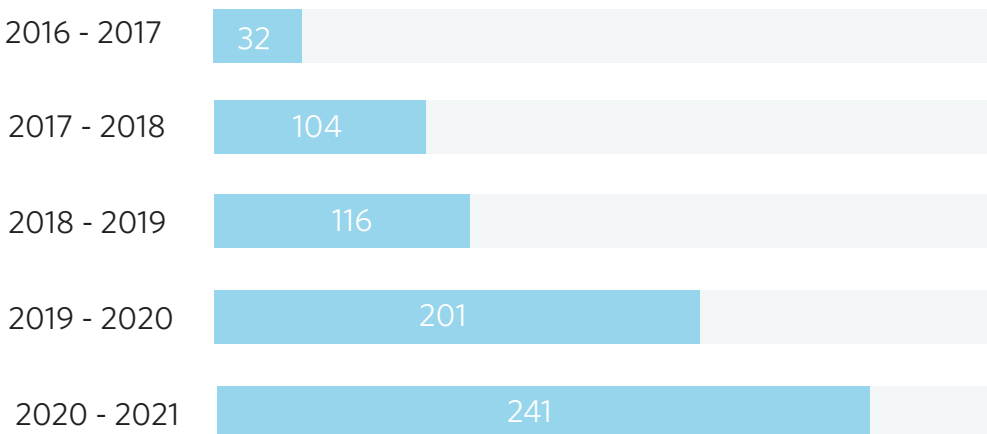
Annual Program Growth

During the annual intake in Fall co-op application period in 2020-21, 218 applications were received, and 207 students were admitted.

The continued growth across all undergraduate programs shows that students are prioritizing opportunities to gain work integrated learning experiences and see Co-op as a valuable component within their academic journey.

Faculty	2018-2019 Work Terms	2019-2020 Work Terms	2020-2021 Work Terms	% Change (2019/20 vs 2020/21)
Arts	11	25	33	32.0%
Fine Arts	0	0	3	300%
Management	54	46	58	26.1%
Human Kinetics	6	11	11	0%
Science	45	119	133	11.8%
Media Studies	0	0	3	300%
Totals	116	201	241	19.9%

Total Co-op Work Terms by Academic Year



241

Completed Work Terms
2020 - 2021 Academic Year

20%

Growth in Work Terms
2021-22 Academic Year



Projects & Program Development

Throughout 2020 - 21 the Interdisciplinary Co-op Program has made significant progress through new projects funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education. These projects compliment the program's commitment to overall continuous improvement and development through both internal practices and curriculum, as well as new and exciting learning opportunities and pathways for students, and development of new relationships with community partners and industry.

Curriculum Project

Throughout 2020 and 21, the UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan campuses have been working to develop common pre-employment curriculum that can be used across various faculties at both campuses to prepare Co-op students for their first work term, which includes online and interactive modules.

Wine Industry Co-op Specialization

UBC Co-op programs will initiate and pilot a specialized wine sector co-op education program that will expose students to the dynamic, growing, and evolving BC wine sector; providing a unique opportunity to engage both locally, and internationally.

Indigenous Co-op Engagement

Through community engagement with Indigenous businesses and student participation, this project developed a sustainable plan and resources to increase participation levels from Indigenous students and community partners in work-integrated learning. As a result of this engagement, UBCO and UBC Vancouver will bring on two Indigenous Co-op coordinators to support Indigenous students in the Arts, Engineering, and Interdisciplinary Co-op programs.

Tri-University Partnership - Interior & Northern Work Integrated Learning Initiative (INWIL)

The Interior & Northern Work Integrated Learning Initiative in partnership with Thompson Rivers University, and the University of Northern British Columbia, explores barriers to participation in work-integrated learning through consultation with industry leaders and small and medium sized organizations within the Interior and Northern regions of BC. This regional engagement encouraged resource development to support small and medium sized organizations in connecting with students, and supporting the growth of the regional economy through work-integrated learning.



Co-op Student Trends

In the 2020 - 21 year, the Interdisciplinary Co-op Program grew substantially to include a more diverse group of students than ever before. Within the Interdisciplinary Co-op Program, international student representation has continued to showcase growth year over year; of work terms completed each year, 16% were completed by international students in 2019-20, and 27% in 2020-21.

Students value the addition of Co-op to their educational experience, as it provides opportunity to develop professional work experience and a rich network of contacts, all while earning an income and exploring career options.

\$15-43 /hr

Range of Hourly Rates for UBC Okanagan Co-op Students Based on 2020-21 historical data

\$19.39 /hr

Average Hourly Rate for UBC Okanagan Co-op Students Based on 2020-21 historical data

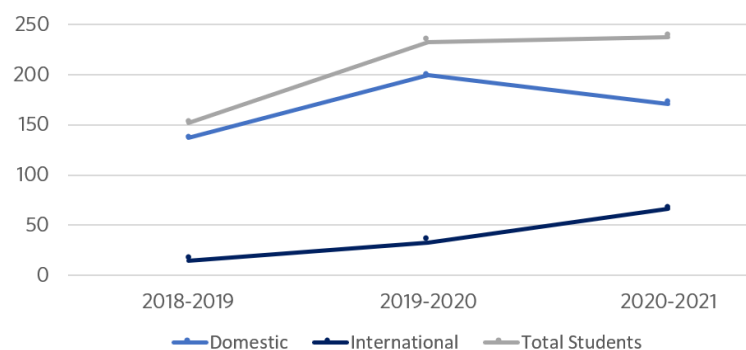
“Provided with the opportunity to be a Project Coordinator at Okanagan coLab has raised my confidence professionally, and increased my business education substantially.”

- Luan Jardine, Fourth Year, Co-op Management Student

27%

Total 2020-21 Co-op Work Terms Completed by International Students

Domestic & International Students





Co-op Community Partners

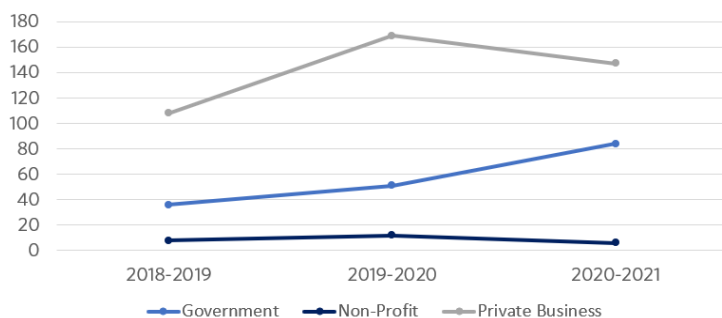
In the 2020 - 21 academic year, the program saw significant engagement from the public sector, through federal, provincial and municipal work experiences for students. While private businesses continued to be the main driver of Co-op community partner participation, the program also saw increased participation from non-profit organizations.

While the COVID-19 pandemic saw a halt to international work terms in 2020-21, there was a continued increase of placements within BC at 8.2% from the 2019-20 academic year to 2020-21. With the introduction of the INWIL initiative building on current growth trends, we anticipate continued development in the region of new opportunities for Co-op and work-integrated learning students.

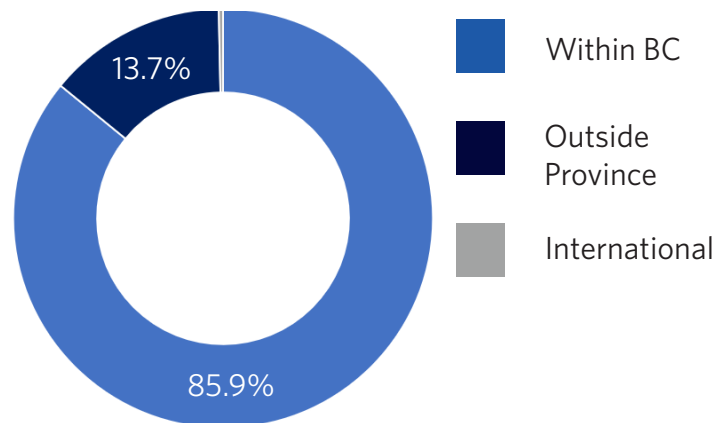
“The UBC Okanagan Co-op program is great. We are able to tap into our student’s current program and incorporate that into our programming and services at Okanagan Peak Performance. It’s a nice way to connect us to the academic community at UBC.”

- Chris Collins, Okanagan Peak Performance

Employer Sector



Work Term Location



Faculty of Management – sponsoring Faculty

Roger Sugden, Dean

Faculty Advisors include:

Myron Campbell: Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies (on-leave)
Rebecca Frechette: School of Health and Exercise Science
Eric Li: Faculty of Management
Trudy Kavanagh: Faculty of Science
Bernard Momer: Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Megan Smith, Associate Professor, Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies

Co-op Program Office

Stephanie Clark, Co-op & Career Coordinator
Mandy Little, Administrative Assistant
Sher Miller, Indigenous Co-op Coordinator
Meghan Reid, Co-op Coordinator (on leave)
Dawn Sheldon, Marketing & Engagement Project Coordinator
Jamie Snow, Associate Director Community Relations
Paula Verholen, Partner Engagement Advisor

University of British Columbia
Okanagan Campus
EME4145 - 1137 Alumni Ave
Kelowna, BC Canada
V1V 1V7

Tel 250 807 9623
Email: coop.ok@ubc.ca
www.coop.ok.ubc.ca



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Interdisciplinary Co-op Education
Okanagan Campus