

Interdisciplinary Co-op Education, UBC Okanagan: Annual Report 2021-2022



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Interdisciplinary Co-op Education
Okanagan Campus



Interdisciplinary Co-op Education

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

The program seeks to foster connections - through people and environments that expand our world view and enrich our learning, work and daily lives. Co-op is an opportunity for diverse communities to come together in a shared purpose of collaborative learning. Some of the program key objectives are to create an interdisciplinary reflective learning program that is inclusive and accessible to learners across the UBC Okanagan campus.

Continued attention remains to fostering strong relationships with organizations in BC's interior region that offer expansive workplace learning experiences locally with global relevance.

Co-op employer partners report the best feature of Co-op is the quality of applicants. The Interdisciplinary Co-op Education is open to undergraduate students in Arts, Fine Arts, Human Kinetics, Management, Media Studies. Co-op is a competitive program, all applicants are pre-screened, complete pre-employment and career readiness curriculum and receive ongoing supports and engage in reflective practice throughout their co-op work term experiences.

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.



Annual Program Growth

During the annual Fall co-op application period in 2021-22, 249 applications were received and 229 students were admitted. This follows a consistent upward trend in program growth, year-over-year as the co-op program saw 175 and 207 students accepted in the 2019-20, and 2020-21 academic years, respectively. In it's most active year yet, the 2021-22 academic year saw a total of 441 students participating in the program over the course of the year.

306

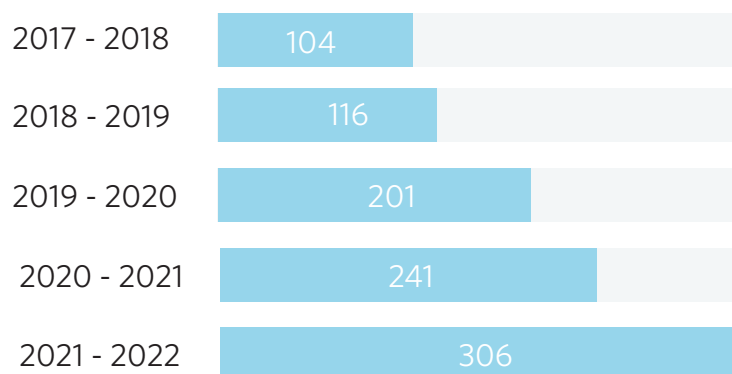
Completed Work Terms
2021-22 Academic Year

27%

Growth in Work Terms
2021-22 Academic Year

Faculty	2019-2020 Work Terms	2020-2021 Work Terms	2021-2022 Work Terms	% Change (2020-21 to 2021-22)
Arts	25	33	42	27.3%
Fine Arts	0	3	0	-100%
Management	46	58	77	32.8%
Human Kinetics	11	11	14	27.3%
Science	119	133	173	30.1%
Media Studies	0	3	0	-100%
Totals	201	241	306	27.0%

Total Co-op Work Terms by Academic Year



“The co-op program has instilled awareness and confidence in myself, my skills, and abilities needed to build a solid foundation for career development following the completion of my undergraduate degree.”

- Aurora Gardiner, BMgmt, '21



Projects & Program Development

Throughout 2021-22, the Interdisciplinary Co-op Program continued to advance program objectives of creating an interdisciplinary program grounded in reflective practice and seeking to create more equitable access to learners across the UBC Okanagan campus. With continued attention to fostering strong relationships with organizations in BC's interior region that offer engaging workplace learning experiences locally with global relevance. With ministry funding the Interdisciplinary Co-op unit advanced the following initiatives this past year.

Wine Industry Co-op Specialization

We piloted the first UBC industry-specific co-op education program. Through participation in this unique program students learn about the world of wine, and gain experience in one of BC's most economically significant sectors - one that comprises a range of areas from viticulture and production to distribution, marketing and tourism.

Students study with world-class faculty, and work with engaged members of the sector. A diverse set of people contribute their expertise to this new program, which is led by the Interdisciplinary Co-op Program, in collaboration with the UBC Wine Research Centre.

With 14 students completing the required Introduction to the BC Wine Sector Letter of Proficiency course, and half a dozen work term experiences underway in the 2022-23 academic year, the program is proving to be an engaging learning experience.

Teaching & Learning Curriculum

Throughout 2021-22, Interdisciplinary Co-op has integrated pre-employment curriculum in close collaboration with the CTLT unit, creating a Canvas course - Co-op Learning Community. This Canvas course is now a hub of resources, supports and interactive exercises to assist students throughout their time in the Co-op Education Program.

Indigenous Student Engagement

In November 2021, the Co-op Office welcomed Sher Miller in the role of Indigenous Co-op Coordinator. Sher is from the Mohawk Nation of Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in Ontario. Situated with the Interdisciplinary Co-op Program, Sher has been supporting students across campus with the aim of creating equitable access to co-op/experiential learning programming for Indigenous students.

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

Through continued collaboration with TRU, and UNBC, engagement of small and medium-sized organizations (SMEs) in the Interior and Northern regions of BC continues to be heightened. Additional resources including an [equity, diversity and inclusion guide](#) has been developed for community partners. Efforts continue in identifying student values and perceptions of workplace learning, leading to increased access and engagement of co-op experiences based regionally. [Learn More.](#)



Co-op Student Trends

Students continue to value Co-op education within their UBC learning experience, as a learning experience that integrates knowledge, skills, personal qualities and understanding in new and changing circumstances.

In 2021-22, 35.6% of total co-op work terms were completed by international students; a demographic that continues to show interest and success in the program.

“Through my co-op experiences I have gained more perspective regarding possible career paths post-graduation”.

- Lisvet Parra Montas, BA, '21,
Co-op Student of the Year recipient

\$15-38 /hr

Range of Hourly Wages for Interdisciplinary Co-op Students Based on 2021 - 22 historical data

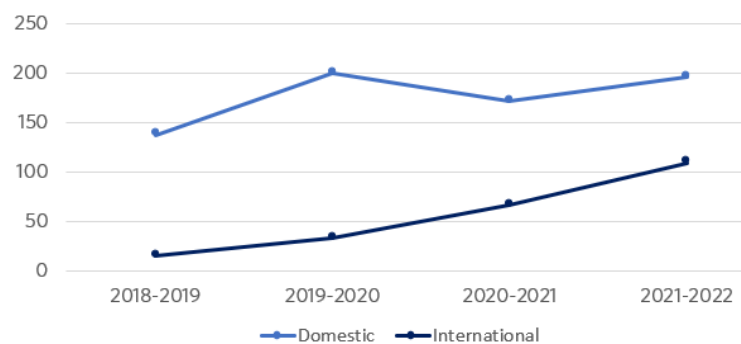
\$19.97 /hr

Average Hourly Wage Earned for Interdisciplinary Co-op Students Based on 2021 - 22 historical data

35%

Total 2021-22 Co-op Work Terms Completed by International Students

Domestic & International Students





Co-op Community Partners

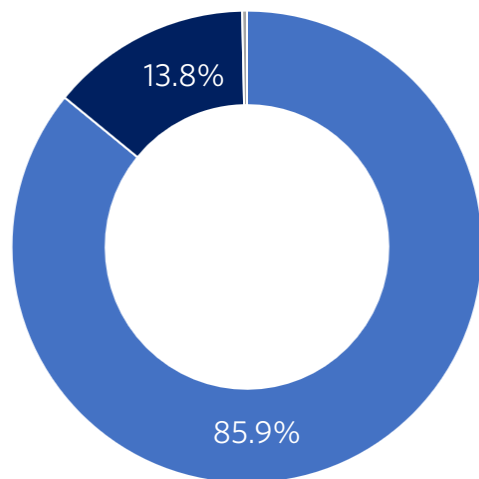
Engagement of co-op work experiences continued to increase within BC in the 2021 - 22 academic year seeing a 23.6% increase compared to the past year.

With continued attention to engagement within the BC interior regions and such initiatives as INWIL building on current growth trends, we anticipate continued development in the region of new opportunities for Co-op students.

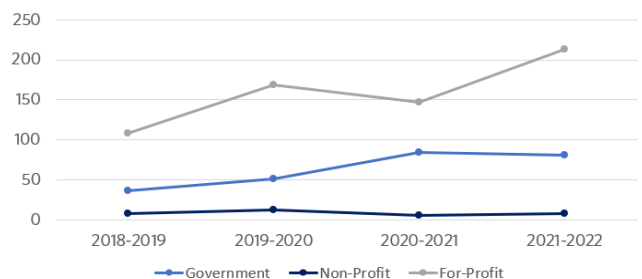
“(Students) have also played several key enabling roles - helping management and senior technical staff operate more effectively. It is great to see how quickly these students can meaningfully contribute to the workplace.”

- Mary Clark, CEO and Founder, Agents of Discovery

Work Term Location



Employer Sector



* Government is inclusive of municipal, provincial and federal government and agencies.

Faculty of Management – sponsoring Faculty

Roger Sugden, Dean

Faculty Advisors include:

Myron Campbell: Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies
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

Interdisciplinary Co-op Program staff members:

Ching Yiu (Jojo) Coleman, Co-op Administrator
Megan Foster, Co-op Coordinator
Mandy Little, Partner Engagement Advisor
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

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