

# 2019 CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

May 1, 2018 - April 30, 2019

Co-operative education is a hallmark of excellence at the University of Waterloo. What started with a cohort of 74 students in 1957 has grown to more than 22,000 today. Not only have we grown in numbers during this time, we've evolved to bring work-integrated learning to all students in any plan. With co-op as a foundational value in the University's history and development, it's no wonder nearly seven out of ten Waterloo students were registered in a co-op program in Fall 2018.

## A driver of enrolment growth

According to the 2019 Incoming Student Survey, 72% of incoming undergraduate co-op students would not have accepted their offer without co-op. The University has nearly four times as many co-op students as the next largest Canadian post-secondary co-op program.



**22,461**  
undergraduate  
co-op students  
enrolled as of Fall 2018



**17%**  
co-op enrolment increase  
in the last 5 years  
(Fall 2014 - Fall 2018)

## Highlights from the 2019 fiscal year

Source: IAP/WaterlooWorks



**\$285+ Million**  
in student earnings with  
average co-op earnings of  
**\$12,400 per work term**  
in Canada

Full-time paid work terms, alternating with study terms, enable students to deepen their learning in their fields of study, develop transferable skills that will help them in careers and throughout their lives and enhance their ability to learn quickly and comprehensively.



**21,800+**  
work terms



**97.6%**  
co-op  
employment rate

Employers travel from all over the world to recruit Waterloo students. The size and scale of Waterloo's co-op program requires an unparalleled level of support from staff and faculty partners.



**27,000+**  
jobs posted



**1,200,000+**  
co-op job applications



**99,000+**  
interviews  
(1,500+ in a  
single day)



**52,000+**  
interactions with  
students, employers  
and staff by our  
Information Centre and  
Help Desk staff

**4,800+**  
first work terms

**3,200+**  
international work terms in  
**60+ countries**

University graduate survey data shows that Waterloo co-op grads enjoy better career success than graduates from other Ontario universities.

**92%**

of Waterloo co-op grads are employed 6 months after graduation **compared to 89% of Ontario graduates**  
*Ontario University Graduate Survey of 2016 graduates*

**96%**

of co-op grads employed 6 months after graduation worked in positions related to skills they acquired at Waterloo **compared to 79% of Ontario graduates**  
*Ontario University Graduate Survey of 2016 graduates*

**82%**

were earning **\$50,000+** 2 years after graduation **compared to 45% of Ontario graduates**  
*Ontario University Graduate Survey of 2016 graduates*

The University's employer network stretches around the world. Co-op support staff are strategically located across Canada to offer support to employers and students no matter where they are.

The Centre for Career Action (CCA) provides employment, career development and further education preparation for all Waterloo students, alumni and employees.

**7,100+**

active employers



**1,500+**

new employers



**8.4/10**

average rating students gave their work term experience

**95.1%**

co-op students received ratings of very good to outstanding from employers

**3,700+**

people engaged by WatCACE in research related to co-op



**20,800+**

enrolments in **15 WatPD courses**

**2,500+**

students attended individual career advising sessions



**11,300+**

participants in workshops and events



**17,000+**

University of Waterloo community members accessed CareerHub

**6,500+**

students accessed drop-in career or co-op consultation services



Canada's most innovative university for



**28 YEARS**

in a row  
*Maclean's Magazine*



**Ranked #1**

in Canada for employer-student connections  
*QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020*

View the full report online  
[uwaterloo.ca/co-operative-education-annual-report/](http://uwaterloo.ca/co-operative-education-annual-report/)



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