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

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

4,800+ first work terms

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

21,800+ 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.
- **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.
- **82%** were earning **$50,000+** 2 years after graduation compared to **45%** of Ontario 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.

- **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
- **20,800+** enrolments in 15 WatPD courses
- **92%** of Waterloo co-op grads are employed 6 months after graduation compared to **89%** of Ontario 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.
- **82%** were earning **$50,000+** 2 years after graduation compared to **45%** of Ontario graduates.

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

- **2,500+** students attended individual career advising sessions
- **17,000+** University of Waterloo community members accessed CareerHub
- **6,500+** students accessed drop-in career or co-op consultation services
- **3,700+** people engaged by WatCACE in research related to co-op
- **11,300+** participants in workshops and events

**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/