

2020 CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

May 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020

Co-operative Education started with a cohort of 74 students and has grown to more than 23,000. The end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year collided with a global pandemic creating unpredictable challenges for our students in an ever-changing and complex world of work. To support our students and employers we created more flexible pathways, moved all co-op interviews and services to a digital landscape, introduced [bulk hiring opportunities](#) and leveraged additional [funding](#) to create more jobs.

A driver of enrolment growth

According to the 2018 Incoming Student Survey, 72% of incoming undergraduate students would not have accepted their offer without co-op. The University has more co-op students than the next four largest post-secondary co-op institutions – combined.



23,017
undergraduate
co-op students
enrolled as of Fall 2019

20%
co-op enrolment increase
in the last 5 years
(Fall 2014 - Fall 2019)

7000+
students available
for hire
(every term)

Highlights from the 2019/2020 fiscal year

Source: IAP/WaterlooWorks



\$295+ Million

in student earnings with
average co-op earnings of
\$12,700 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.



22,400+
work terms
an increase of
27.5% since
2014/15



97.32%

co-op employment rate
93.9% first work term
employment rate

4,700+

first work terms
an increase of
28.4% since
2014/15

3,400+

international work terms in
64 countries

\$525 Million

in additional returns for companies who hire
Waterloo co-op students in 2018
2019 Economic Impact Report by Deloitte



29,000+
jobs posted



99,000+
interviews
62,500+
in-person,
24,700+ over
the Web,
12,000+ over
phone



1,260,000+
co-op job applications
an increase of **32%**
since 2014/15



38,000+
interactions with
students, employers
and staff by our
Information Centre and
Help Desk staff



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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 with an average of **2,200 employers hiring per term**



1,600+

new employers



8.4/10

average rating students gave their work term experience **91.4% students gave their work term a rating of 7 and higher**

94.8%

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



12,500+

participants in workshops and events



2,100+

students attended individual career advising sessions



16,500+

University of Waterloo community members accessed CareerHub **averaging 4 minutes 24 seconds per pageview**



6,000+

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

21,700+

enrolments in **WatPD courses**



Ranked #1

in Canada for Experiential Learning
Maclean's Magazine Rankings 2020



Ranked #1

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



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