

# UW BME SOCIETY



## WHO WE ARE

The UWBMESociety was established in late January 2024, with the goal of creating a platform that fosters education, opportunities, and community within the field of biomedical engineering. Beyond raising awareness, UWBMESociety aspires to bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds, offering them the chance to broaden their understanding of the field and engage with industry professionals. Having hosted social events and industry panels, we hope to engage with the student community at Waterloo!

FEBRUARY 2025



## Q&A PODCAST

WITH THE CANADIAN UNDERGRADUATE BIOMEDICAL  
ENGINEERING CONFERENCE (CUBEC) 

Back in November, students in their 3A term (27's) at Waterloo were able to chat with CUBEC about their co-op searching and work experience. Here are some of the highlights from this discussion:

**Q: What was it like searching for your first co-op?**

**Jeeda Sabri:** It was definitely tough. The best way to prepare yourself for co-op is to get people to look at your resume, and roast it. You might think your resume looks good, but if you get someone else's eyes on it, it might not look as good to other people. A resume can make or break an interview. Overall, I definitely felt as though I didn't have enough experience. However, there are definitely many things that you can use from high school.

**Bhavneet Bola:** It can be very disheartening to get rejected from different companies. Everyone coming in has little, but also different experiences from high school. It's very important to keep pushing through despite the rejections. You get better as you keep applying to more jobs, and start getting interviews.

**Megheti Bekmezian:** Creating a LinkedIn is important, especially during your first year. It can be used for networking, meeting new people and connecting with people. What's most important is not to be too hard on yourself. It's your first time searching for a co-op, and there's no such thing as a bad co-op. No matter where you work and what you do, there's always a learning experience.

**Q: What skills and experiences do you think contributed to getting recent co-ops?**

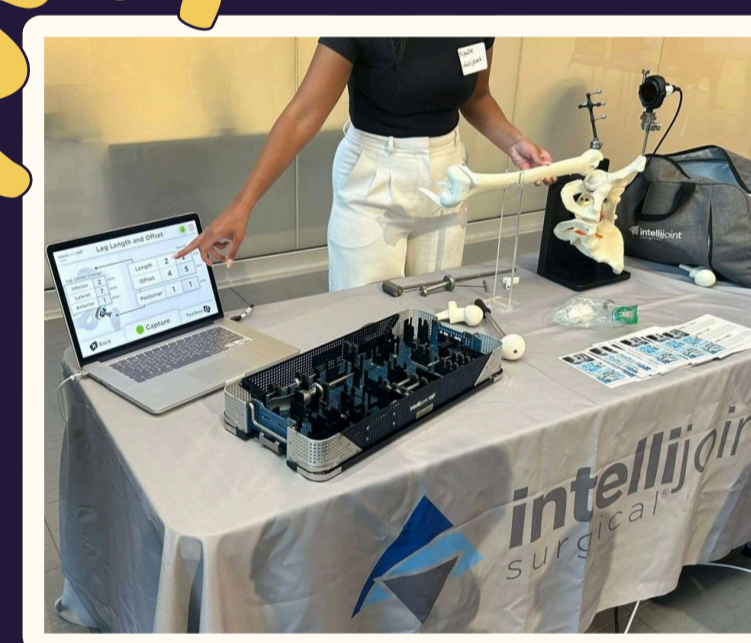
**Jeeda Sabri:** Communication skills. It may sound basic. However, during my first co-op, a lot of the time was spent figuring out how to work in a workplace, and how do you work with so many people. Learning how to absorb information, problem solving, and most importantly of all, how to work with people, collaborate with them, asking questions and concerns are important experiences that I believe students should have and can be very valuable in life.

**Megheti Bekmezian:** Being able to know who to ask your questions. People have better expertise in certain areas, and that it's ok to ask someone on a mechanical team a mechanics question, and not necessarily your supervisor. I believe asking good questions also comes from having confidence in yourself, and my previous experiences helped me gain the confidence to speak up and ask a question, or give my opinion. It shows that you care about the product and that you want to contribute to the success of the company.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Last year, we hosted 2 industry panels, with guest speakers from Intellijoint Surgical, Myant, Cosm Medical, Vena Medical and more. We also host social and networking events, where you can meet students and professors in the faculty!

This term, you can look forward to more exciting events coming soon! We will be hosting a tour of the Medical Innovation Xchange (MIX), a startup incubator in Kitchener, which is home to many medical device companies that are on the rise, including Vena Medical, FluidAI, and more. Follow our Instagram page @uwbmehociety for more details!



**Q: What were some of the challenges you had to overcome during your first co-op?**

**Jeeda Sabri:** Being able to advocate and speak up for myself. As a co-op student, you're bound to make mistakes. There was once a project I had that I knew that I wouldn't be able to finish on time. However, you have to learn how to be open about them. If you hide mistakes, I promise you it will not end well.

**Megheti Bekmezian:** During one of my co-ops, I was not really surrounded by co-op students. I think it's important to have the courage to speak with full-time employees. They don't think of themselves as better, they're normally super supportive, nice and helpful. Don't be intimidated! It's important to create strong relationships at work, and make the days go by quicker.



**Q: In-person vs Hybrid vs Online. What do you think of these?**

**Bhavneet Bola:** Having the opportunity to work both online and in-person, I personally find that when you're in person, there are a lot more opportunities that give you the chance to think outside the box and take more initiative.

