

YOUR ARTS CAREER STARTS HERE

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UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Centre for Career
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ABOUT YOUR FACILITATORS

Brent Thornhill

- Faculty Relations Manager, Co-operative & Experiential Education
- Support co-op programs across the Faculty of Arts
- 10+ years experience at Waterloo
- Loves golf, history, and dogs

▪ **Vanya Gnaniah**

- Career Advisor, Centre for Career Development
- Supports all pre-first work term students navigate through the co-op process.
- PhD Student, Faculty of Arts
- Loves reading, cooking & anime

▪ **Rachel Zammit**

- EDGE Advisor, Centre for Work-Integrated Learning
- Supports students interested or enrolled in the EDGE Program
- Faculty of Arts graduate
- Loves traveling, tennis, and my dog



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is coordinated within the Office of Indigenous Relations.

[UWaterloo Indigenous Peoples in Canada Reading List](#)

AGENDA

- Myth vs Facts: What to expect with a degree in Arts
- How you can prepare for the future of work
- Work Integrated opportunities offered by UWaterloo
 - Co-op
 - EDGE
- Supports Available



HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

- Session will be recorded
- How to participate
 - Add your questions in the chat anytime!
- How to process the information we are sharing today
- Keeping this space safe

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- What major questions or concerns do you have when it comes deciding between co-op or not?
- What else are you hoping to learn about today?



MYTHS VERSUS FACTS

What to expect with a degree in Arts

MYTH #1

“There are very little job opportunities for an Arts graduate (except for Economics).”

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTS

- “It turns out your [Arts Students] skills—including the ability to communicate, solve problems, think critically and collaborate—are in demand for many sectors, including finance and technology.” (Maclean, 2022)
- UWaterloo is a pioneer for WIL for Arts Students
 - The number of co-op arts students hired by the finance sector more than quadrupled to 358 in 2017-18, up from 81 in 2007-08. Those hired on four-month terms by technology companies more than tripled to 531 from 162 over the same period.
- The challenge is not finding opportunities but articulating your skills

YOUR SKILLS- EXAMPLES

Arts Skills	What You Can Do For Employers	
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Literature reviews ✓ Identify best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Industry trends/competitor analysis ✓ Utilize CRM software tools
Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Storytelling –share product/services in a compelling way ✓ Content generation and digital marketing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Photo, video and website design ✓ User experience ✓ Staff wellness and engagement
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Writing –reports, proposals, grants, project updates ✓ Compile information into charts and graphs ✓ Instruct/educate others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Update and maintain records, processes and projects ✓ Adapt info/communication pieces for a variety of audiences

SAMPLE JOB CATEGORIES

- Marketing and communications
- Research and analysis
- Human resources/services
- Administration and support services
- Policy and Government services
- Business development and sales
- Education and training

SAMPLE EMPLOYERS

▪ Education:

1. D2L (Desire2Learn)
2. Sheridan College
3. Toronto District School Board

Finance/Banking:

1. Manulife Financial
2. RBC Financial Group
3. Scotiabank

Government/Public Sector:

1. National Research Council Canada
2. Ontario Ministry of Finance
3. Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
4. Peel Regional Police
5. Treasury Board agency

Technology/IT:

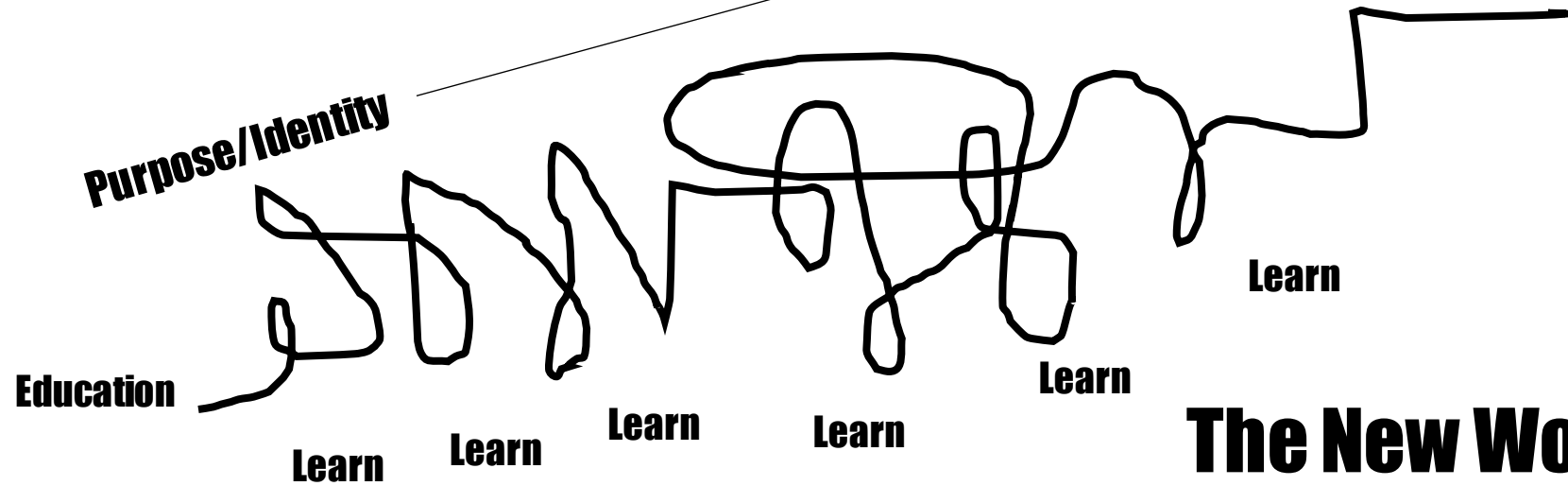
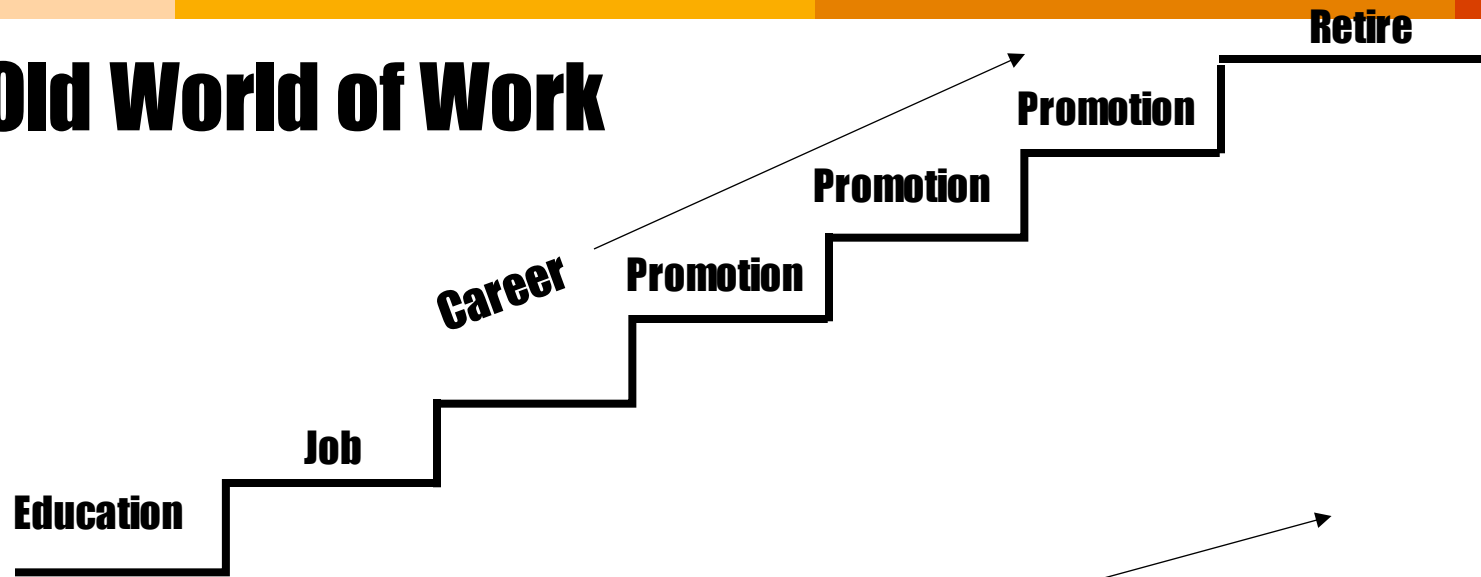
1. ApplyBoard
2. CGI Group Inc
3. Clearpath Robotics



MYTH #2

“My choice of major will completely determine the kind of jobs I get”

The Old World of Work



The New World of Work



MAKE PUBLIC SPACES BEAUTIFUL



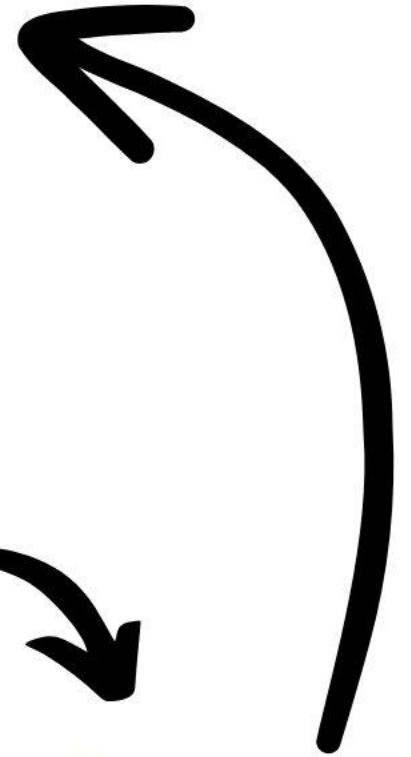
BA in Urban Planning



**New Job!
Community Arts Coodinator**



Art installations in unused public spaces



Sarah reflects on her passion



LEARNING & GROWING

- Lifelong learning and importance of adaptability and flexibility
 - “Hire for the propensity to learn” - IBM CEO, Ginni Rometty
 - Recent Waterloo study shows that those who adopt a lifelong learning mindset see greater performance, more promotions, and higher job satisfaction
- Degree \neq career path
- View career as a web not a ladder
- There is no “right” choice, career, pathway

WHAT (job/role) \Rightarrow **HOW** (skills/strengths) \Rightarrow **WHY** (drives/motivators)

TO

WHY (drives/motivators) \Rightarrow **HOW** (skills/strengths) \Rightarrow **WHAT** (job/role)

FUTURE OF WORK

Increased Automation

→ Cultivate Skills less susceptible to automation (creativity, critical thinking, adaptability)

Battling Climate Change & other disruptions

→ Explore how Arts degree can intersect with sustainability, social justice, and resilience initiatives.

Digital Literacy is essential

→ Embrace opportunities to integrate technology into your education and explore digital mediums for creative expression

Need for Skilled Workforce

→ Mindset of Continual Learning





HOW YOU CAN PREPARE

For the future of Work

1. SELF-UNDERSTANDING

- Values, strengths, personality, interests and areas of curiosity
- Stronger application documents
- More persuasive interviews
- Provides direction and tangible work search identifiers (e.g., use skill and interest keywords to search for and narrow down job postings)
- Boosts feelings of self-worth and confidence
- Knowing and applying your strengths leads to better engagement, productivity and well-being (Seligman, 2002)

Action Item!

Drop by the AUO on March 27th (9AM- 3PM) and chat with me!

[Check out our resources on Discovering a Career you'll Love](#)

2. INFORMATION SEEKING

- Making decisions about where to spend time/energy (learning, work, volunteer, clubs, hobbies, etc.)
- Commitment to life-long learning and skill development
 - What skills are important for me to have?
 - How can I find ways to develop and apply my skills?
- Seeking out and evaluating information
 - Conducting labour market research
 - Networking (leveraging existing connections and building new ones)

Action Item!

Consider a fun and valuable experience for this summer



3. ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT AND APPLICATION

- Continuous reflection of skills, interests and motivations
- Learning new things – self-taught, micro-courses
- Effectively searching/using job boards
- Creating and constantly improving application documents and online presence
- Refining approach to formal and informational interviews

Action Item!

Book an Ask Me Anything Appointment with your Career Advisor today!

SOME PRACTICAL ACTION ITEMS FOR THE SUMMER

- Self-reflection & journaling
- Talk to your Career Advisor and access UWaterloo's Career Resources
 - Career Appointments/Drop ins
 - Workshops & [Career Hub](#)
- Talk to your network of friends, family members, mentors, or colleagues about different opportunities available to you.
- Get a driver's license if you don't have one
- ***Engage in Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities at UWaterloo***



WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING (WIL)

WIL OPTIONS IN ARTS

Co-op

EDGE

WHAT IS CO-OP?

WHY CO-OP AT WATERLOO?



Study/Work Sequence Information

Plan	F	W	S	F	W	S	F	W	S	F	W	S	F	W
Honours Arts and Business Co-op	1A	1B	off	2A	WT	2B	WT	3A	WT	3B	WT	WT	4A	4B
Honours Arts Co-op (excluding majors in Economics, Mathematical Economics, English, Fine Arts)	1A	1B	off	2A	2B	WT	3A	WT	3B	WT	4A	WT	WT	4B
Honours Arts Co-op (including majors in Economics, Mathematical Economics, English, Fine Arts)	1A	1B	off	2A	WT	2B	WT	3A	WT	3B	WT	WT	4A	4B



ARTS CO-OP DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- In order to be eligible to receive a co-op designation on the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree, Arts students are required to successfully complete:
 - A minimum of **four** work terms
 - A minimum of **four** professional development (PD) online courses
 - Including PD1 taken prior to the first work term
 - Including PD12 taken during the first work term

Source: [Undergraduate Studies Calendar | University of Waterloo \(uwaterloo.ca\)](#)



IS CO-OP RIGHT FOR ME?

I understand that being in co-op demands more of me during academic terms

I am capable of balancing multiple priorities

I enjoy change and regularly trying new things

I'm flexible and adventurous

Building professional skills is essential while I'm a student

I'm ready to put effort into my work search

I like consistency and predictability

I'm focused on completing my undergrad degree as quickly as possible

I'm interested in other non-co-op experiential education programs like EDGE!

I would like to have my summer breaks

Sometimes regular is a better fit – and that's okay!



INTERNATIONAL CO-OP STUDENTS

- You will need a co-op work permit to accept a co-op job
- You can not work on a study permit
- Processing times can be lengthy, apply as soon as possible
- SSO Immigration Consultants:
 - Book an appointment
 - Review application instructions online



ARTS CO-OP ELIGIBILITY

To be admitted to Arts co-op before the start of your second year (2A/Fall), you must meet the same criteria as mentioned earlier:

- 70% Honours average in major subject, and one or two courses completed (depending on major)
- If you want to combine Arts & Business with your Honours major, a 70% Arts & Business average is required
- Cumulative average of at least 60%
- Minimum 8 courses (4.0 units) completed
- **Maximum 13 courses (6.5 units) completed before Fall term begins**

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH CO-OP

- Finding a job takes time! Be ready for some commitment and with staying engaged with the process
- Be open-minded with the jobs you're willing to match with – especially in work term one!
- You can apply to jobs outside of your program & arrange your own job

WHAT IS EDGE?

WHAT IS EDGE?



Academic certificate program

Regular-stream students

Strong focus on career readiness

Opt in, free, flexible



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WHAT IS EDGE?

6

Milestones

3

Experiences

1

Certificate

Interested in EDGE? Register here



[Learn more about the EDGE program](#)



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SUPPORTS & RESOURCES

Career Advisors



Co-op + WaterlooWorks
Arranging your own Job
Finding Opportunities
(jobs, volunteer, etc.)
Networking
Résumé
Cover Letter
Interview Prep
Career Exploration

Academic Advisors



Co-op Sequence
Course Selection
Co-op Degree
Requirements

[Find my Academic Advisor](#)

Immigration Consultants



Co-op Work Permits
Study Permit
Electronic Travel
Authorization (eTA)
Social Insurance Number
Creating a Bank Account

[Find an Immigration](#)
[Consultant](#)

RESOURCES: CCD APOINTMENTS, WORKSHOPS/EVENTS



Job Search Tactics
Résumé
Cover Letter
Interview Prep
Career Exploration



Individual Appointments
Drop-ins
Workshops
Online Resources

<https://uwaterloo.ca/career-development/>



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LINKS TO EXPLORE



HOME

You are currently logged in as

Dashboard

Hire Waterloo Co-op

Hire Waterloo

Full-time Jobs

Other Jobs

External Job Boards

Employer Information Sessions

Career Centre Events

Additional Networking & Professional Events

APPOINTMENTS

Drop-Ins

Appointments - Further Education/Alumni

Appointments - Graduate
Students/Postdocs

Appointments - Undergraduate Students

Help

Logout

Appointment Modules



Same-day, virtual drop-ins (for ALL students) –

15-minute conversations about **résumés, cover letters, interviews, work search, career consults, or further education support.**



Same-day virtual co-op consults (for students in their FIRST recruitment term) - Have a co-op question? Connect through our Live Chat or phone 519-888-4047 to book a conversation. After your first recruitment term, please send a message through WaterlooWorks to your Student Advisor.



Further Education – Support for planning, applying and interviewing for professional school (Medical School, Physiotherapy, Optometry, Law School, etc.) This includes personal statement reviews and any documents contained in your application. **If you are looking for graduate school prep, please start with CareerHub and then book a drop-in if needed. To request Further Education support, please complete this **form**.*



Undergraduate Students – Appointments for career planning, résumé building, cover letter development, interview prep and work search strategies.



Master's/PhD Students – Appointments for career planning, résumé building, cover letter development, interview prep and work search strategies.



Postdoctoral Fellows – Appointments for career planning, résumé building, cover letter development, interview prep and work search strategies.



Alumni – Appointments for career planning, résumé building, cover letter development, interview prep and work search strategies. Access 3 free, individual appointments (non-transferrable) and discounted rates (\$40/appointment) after the third appointment.



UWaterloo Employees – Appointments for career planning, résumé building, cover letter development, interview prep and work search strategies.



RD: Career Fundamentals – TA meetings for résumé and mock interviews. *Only for students currently enrolled in the course.

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YOU+WATERLOO

Our greatest impact happens together.