

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION AT WATERLOO

HOW WE SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

5 things to know about Co-operative Education

1. We're here to support students throughout their entire co-op experience.

Co-op students always have access to a co-op advisor, during both recruitment terms (job-seeking terms) and work terms. As students explore different organizations and locations, it's likely that their co-op advisor will change. Our co-op advisors are tied to a regional location and set of employers to help ensure they have in-depth knowledge of the organizations where students work and can play a strong support role.

2. Co-op offers flexibility for students.

Most students can complete one or more flexible work terms to count towards their co-op requirements. Flexible work terms allow students to receive credit for a wider range of work experiences that don't quite fit standard requirements. Co-op students must complete a minimum of three standard work terms, plus one to three additional work terms that meet standard or flexible work term criteria, depending on their academic program's study/work sequence.

3. Co-op degree requirements vary by faculty and program.

Students must complete a specified number of co-op work terms, work term reports or reflection credits as well as professional development courses. An overview of university-wide co-op requirements is listed in the Undergraduate Studies Academic Calendar.

4. Co-op is an educational pedagogy, supporting lifelong learning.

Classroom learning makes workplace contributions stronger, while workplace learning and experience enhance classroom learning. Co-operative and Experiential Education (CEE) is focused on ensuring students are future ready. Our Future Ready Talent Framework is a research-backed tool to help students, employers and educators understand the key competencies we all need to navigate the future of work and learning. Our programs are designed to build resilience and adaptability. We help learners acknowledge what they're good at and what kinds of challenges they want to solve, all within a richly supported environment.

5. Many co-op students are employed on campus!

There are grants, tax credits and funding programs that often subsidize or cover the cost of hiring a student. If you'd like to hire a co-op student, contact hire.talent@uwaterloo.ca.

For more information visit:
uwaterloo.ca/co-operative-education



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Co-operative and
Experiential Education

What's new in Co-operative Education

Waterloo Experience (WE) Accelerate



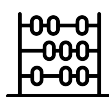
In this program, first work term students develop in-demand skills via industry-developed content and team-based project experiences – all while earning a flexible work term credit. CEE piloted WE Accelerate during the pandemic and it is now an ongoing offering.

Interview relief



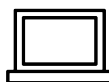
If a student is feeling overwhelmed with their interview schedule, they can fill out a Request for Interview Relief Form on WaterlooWorks. Depending on the situation, they may be able to choose to be removed from one or more of their upcoming interviews by having their job application(s) withdrawn.

Where students work dashboard



This new online tool utilizes WaterlooWorks employment data to show the various industries and job titles that co-op students have held in the past. We encourage students to use this tool to explore potential co-op pathways.

Interviews



Most interviews occur remotely. Plans are underway for employers to return to in-person interviews in Tatham Centre.

Supporting students in co-op: An advisor guide



Our advisor guide is on the Advisor Resource website (uwaterloo.ca/advisor-resource) and we update it annually to support you in advising co-op students.

Referrals

First work-term students

- Students looking for their first co-op job have access to co-op advisors and can also access a virtual or in-person co-op consult.
- Students can book appointments at the Centre for Career Action (CCA) through CCA's live chat, front desk or by phone.

All co-op students

- Each student has a co-op advisor as a first point of contact (listed as WTS – Work Term Support within WaterlooWorks). Students can connect by selecting “Send A Message” on their WaterlooWorks dashboard.
- The CEE Hub (main floor in the Tatham Centre) is available to support students and point them in the right direction. The Hub is staffed Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Advisors

- Advisors are welcome to reach out to their Faculty Relations Manager
 - [Brent Thornhill](#), Faculty of Arts
 - [Eva Skuza](#), Faculty of Engineering & School of Architecture
 - [Janice Bruin](#), Faculty of Health
 - [Justin Kieffer](#), Faculty of Mathematics
 - [Kathryn Fedy](#), Faculty of Environment
 - [Kirsty Budd](#), Faculty of Science & School of Pharmacy
 - [Scott Davis](#), School of Accounting and Finance, Entrepreneurship & Waterloo Research Centres and Institutes