

Starting Over & Pivoting

Everyone stand up!

Stay standing if you also
applied to a non-CS
university program in
high school

Everyone can sit now :D

So you've all chosen
Waterloo...



Mechanize 🏆 @MechanizeWork

Ad ...

Waterloo fourth years: We're hiring software engineers.



From mechanize.work



2



7



60



1.5M

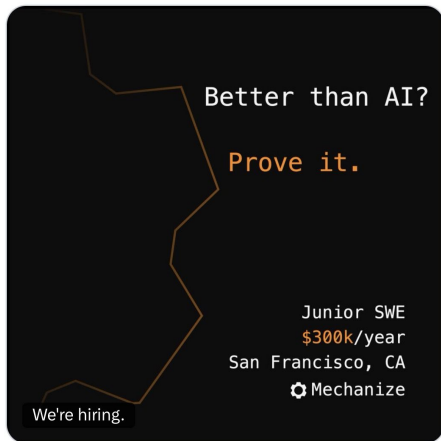




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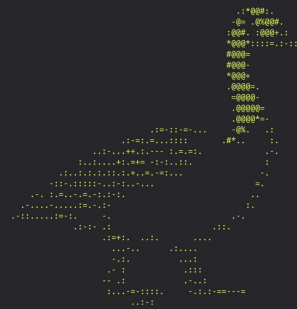
60



1.5M



shopify careers



UW 🟡 **Shopify**

We're always searching for the best and brightest in our own backyard, and UWaterloo alumni, almost alumni, and dropouts are all welcome. If you're a developer with a proven track record of excellence, seek continuous growth, and want to solve complex problems, we'd love to chat.



Mechanize 🟡 @Mech
Waterloo fourth years:
engineers.



Mechanize

#1 in reputation

among Canada's
comprehensive universities

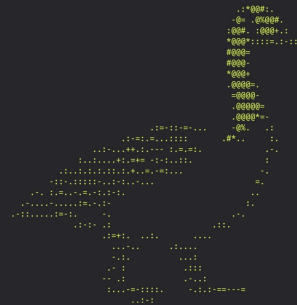
Maclean's University Rankings 2026

From mechanize.work

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engineers.

We're hiring.

From mechanize.work

2 7 60 1.5M

#1 in reputation

among Cal
comprehensive

Maclean's University

Canada's #1 comprehensive research university

for the past 18 years

Research Infosource Canada's Top 50 Research Universities 2025



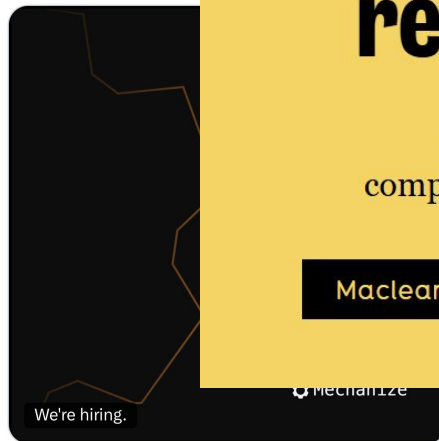
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2025 CS New Grad Compensation Package \$\$\$

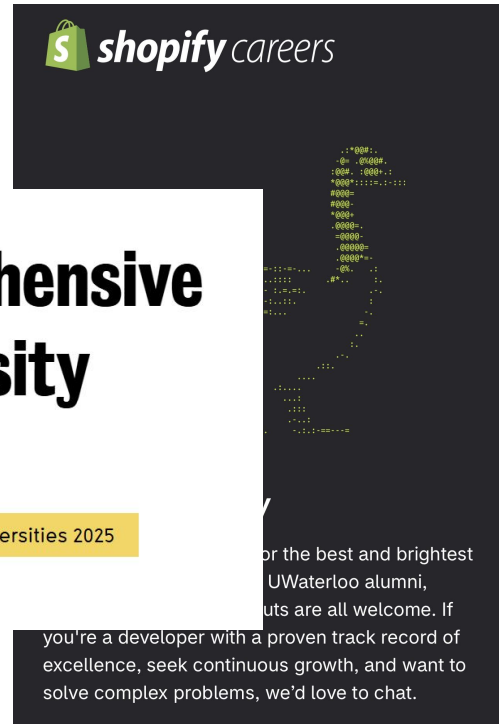
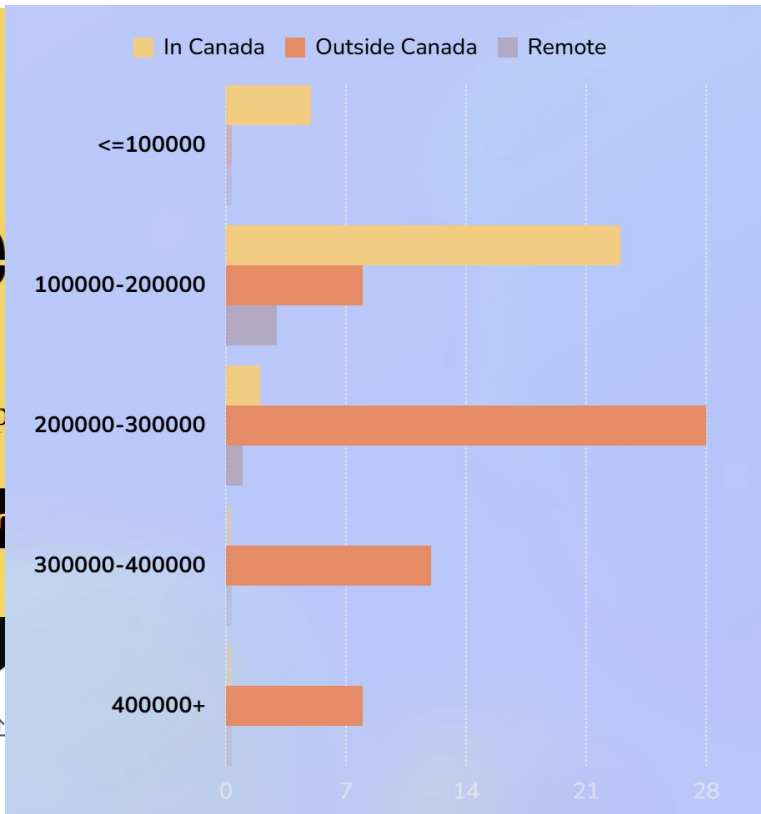
Pulled from 2025 CS Class Profile

 **Mechanize** 🟡 @Mechanize
Waterloo fourth years:
engineers.



From mechanize.work

2 7 60 1.5M



comprehensive diversity

universities 2025

For the best and brightest UWaterloo alumni, all backgrounds and experiences are welcome. If you're a developer with a proven track record of excellence, seek continuous growth, and want to solve complex problems, we'd love to chat.

But what actually
happens in the 5 years
you are here?

14 Terms

8 Study Terms

6 Co-op Terms

In the wise words of



In the wise words of



“You get the
best of both
worlds”



Hannah Montana gets to
live 2 lives

Waterloo students get to
live 14

8 Study Terms
6 Co-op Terms
= 14 Terms

8 Study Terms
6 Co-op Terms
= 14 Lifetimes

A little about my 14 lives ...

- 7 co ops

A little about my 14 lives ...

- 7 co ops in 5 different tech roles
 - Data analyst, software developer, data scientist, data engineer ... pivoting and pivoting and pivoting ...

A little about my 14 lives ...

- 7 co ops in 5 different tech roles
 - Most recently, product manager



A little about my 14 lives ... more pivoting

- 2 research assistantships

A little about my 14 lives ... starting over

- 2 research assistantships
- 1 delayed graduation! Due to transferring programs

A little about my 14 lives ... starting new things!

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- 1 delayed graduation! Due to transferring programs
- 5 plays/musicals I acted in

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- 3 times cried on campus

A little about my 14 lives ...

- 2 research assistantships
- 1 delayed graduation! Due to transferring programs
- 5 plays/musicals I acted in
- 3 years in Data Science Club
- A lot of Socratica sessions
- 3 times cried on campus
- Many friends made along the way :))

I did NOT have this all
planned in 1A.

How do you figure out
the 14 lives you want to
live?

In 3 simple phases

- Phase 1: How to start
- Phase 2: When to pivot
- Phase 3: Reminders along the way

Phase 1: How to start

**If you are interested in something, we
have a place for you to pursue it!**

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have a place for you to pursue it!**

**If we don't, there's nothing stopping
you from being the one to start it for
everyone!**

Phase 1: How to start

AI? Hardware? Robots?

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AI? Hardware? Robots?



Phase 1: How to start

Community within the Math faculty?

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Phase 1: How to start

Performance?

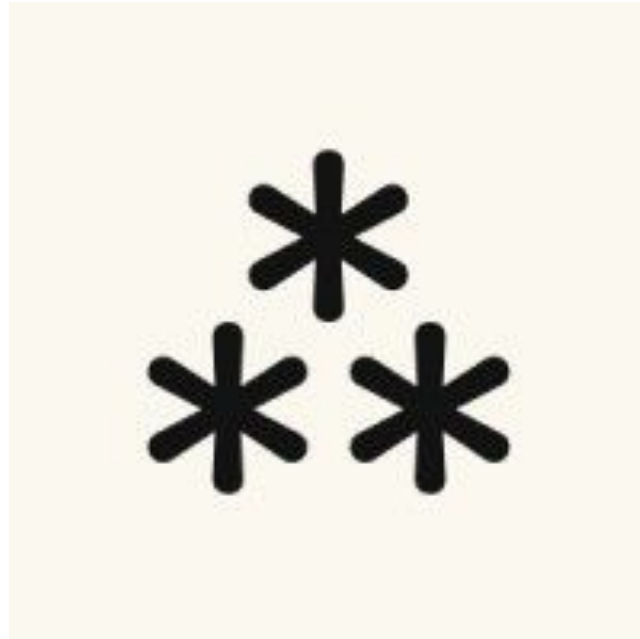
Phase 1: How to start

Performance?



Phase 1: How to start

Something else?



Phase 2: When to pivot

**Ask yourself each term, do you like
where you are? Why or why not?**

Phase 2: When to pivot

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- The content of the work? The people and collaboration style? The environment?

Phase 2: When to pivot

Ask yourself each term, do you like where you are? Why or why not?

- The content of the work? The people and collaboration style? The environment?
- Creating constraints to have a clearer idea of the environment you want to be in next

Phase 2: When to pivot

**You can love something and
still decide to do something else instead**

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**You can love something and
still decide to do something else instead**

- I want to be a data scientist! *I stopped
doing data science co-ops*

Co-op can be anything! Startups, documentaries, animation

Phase 2: When to pivot

**You can love something and
still decide to do something else instead**

- I want to be a data scientist! *I stopped doing data science co-ops*
- I love my major! *I switched out of it*

Phase 3: Reminders along the way

**Do not lose who you are in pursuit of
what you want**

Phase 3: Reminders along the way

**Not everything has to be done all at
once right now**

Phase 3: Reminders along the way

No attempt at something new is ever a waste - regardless if you completely change direction after

In the wise words of



In the wise words of



“You can change your hair,
and you can change your
clothes, **You can change
your mind**, that's just the
way it goes...But you'll
always find your way back
home”



Speaking of starting cool
things ...

INSTAGRAM: @[socratica.info](https://www.instagram.com/socratica.info)

KICKOFF ON SEPTEMBER 24TH @ 7PM

BUILDERS CLUB ROOFTOP

