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**CO-OP MISSION**

The co-op program provides students with an opportunity to apply academic knowledge and skills in “real world” structured work environments, while developing additional competencies that will inform and enhance their professional careers.

**SITE CO-OP** will achieve its **mandate** by:

- delivering structured co-op and work-integrated learning curricula
- providing opportunities for practical, discipline-related work experiences that are transformative
- providing career and professional development opportunities
As the national focus on work-integrated learning (WIL) continues to grow, there’s likely never been a more exciting time for us here at SITE Co-op.

This year, we admitted more co-op students than projected, and experienced our largest summer cohort ever with 507 co-op students hired. In response to this continued growth, our team has risen to the challenge. In addition to the increase in students hired, our total job posting numbers are also up 23%. This number carries significant weight as it illustrates the many opportunities available to our students, while also showcasing the relationship building we do with those who hire them.

The increased attention and focus on WIL – both on the part of Dal’s senior leadership team, as well as our current federal government – is fantastic, though it does not come without its challenges. Federal funding support initiatives are making it easier than ever for organizations to hire students, but greater competition will continue to be a reality for our team as we work to help our students find meaningful work term learning opportunities.

With three strong academic faculties under our banner, our Engineering Co-op program remains strong, and significant growth in Computer Science Co-op is expected. Further, we have initiated a renewal for Science Co-op in conjunction with the faculty’s launch of the Science For strategy. This summer, based on demand from the Mathematics Department, we’ve re-launched the Math & Stats Co-op program. While we recognize the effort and time needed to rejuvenate co-op for very focused disciplines, we look forward to being a partner in the overall growth of Science Co-op.

It appears to be a time of change at Dal and as we prepare to enter a new academic year, I’m optimistic that our students will continue to take advantage of the learning opportunity that co-op represents. We can all take pride in the tremendous impact our co-op students have on our employer community regionally, nationally, and internationally. I am confident that our students will continue to be supported by a strong, talented team of co-op educators, along with our deans and faculty colleagues.

Doug Gallant, Director, Dalhousie SITE Co-op

“Co-op is one of the best things I’ve done at university. I knew what mechanical engineering was but I didn’t have a clear picture of what it means to work as an engineer... When I came out [of the co-op experience] I had a much better idea of what the profession looks like.”

Nayani Jensen, Mechanical Engineering
Dal’s 91st Rhodes Scholar
1,225 students

1,128 work terms completed

92% employment rate

$9.6 million total student earnings

new co-op students in ’17-’18:

381 Engineering
271 Computer Science
59 Science

BY THE NUMBERS
BY THE NUMBERS

2,066 jobs posted

2,702 interviews

106 new employers

346 employers hired students in ‘17-’18

Top industries:

- Manufacturing 22%
- Government 11%
- Information & Communications Technology 11%
- Consulting 9%
- Education & Training 7%
- Oil & Gas 6%
- Government 11%

↑ 23% increase

↑ 7% increase
WHERE OUR STUDENTS WORK

28 took place internationally
1/3 of our students seek work outside NS

“Anything I ask him to do he can do, and do very well. He arrived [for his work term] well-prepared for the role.”

Kevin Ward
Xerium Technologies
on
Ryan Ning
Electrical Engineering
“Not only did [co-op] help me in gaining experience and learning more about my craft, but it helped me to engage with local employers, opening up my network in Halifax. Four years later, I’ve built lots of professional and personal relationships.”

“Completing the co-op program has put me leaps and bounds ahead of where I would have been if I opted to not do the program. I am much more confident with both my academic and technical skills. I have a better idea of which industry I want to pursue ... and what I have to offer.”

“When I was working abroad [during a gap year], I realized that it’s through work opportunities where I’ve fully grasped what it is that I’m doing, and how I learn best. Knowing this, I learned that the best way to reinforce my education was to work while studying.”
In partnership with the provincial government and other post-secondary institutions in the region, Dalhousie launched the first-ever Nova Scotia Co-operative Education Summit, with Doug Gallant and Anna Cranston (Faculty of Management) taking the charge as co-chairs. The event gathered co-op students, employers, and other co-op supporters to share ideas on ways to improve and collaborate on work-integrated learning opportunities in NS.

**MEETING OF THE CO-OP MINDS**

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**IRVING OIL: PUTTING OUR STUDENTS TO WORK**

The company announced a generous $2.2-million gift to Dal's IDEA project, which includes 10 annual scholarships over 10 years. The scholarship recipients will also receive a co-op work term with Irving Oil.

**STELLAR STUDENTS**

Chemical Engineering Co-op student Bai Bintou Kaira was named one of 10 2017 3M National Student Fellows for outstanding leadership and embracing a vision of enhancing the educational experience.

Mechanical Engineering Co-op student Nayani Jensen was named Dal's 91st Rhodes Scholar.

**ENGAGING STUDENTS THROUGH WORKPLACE LEARNING**

Working in partnership with faculty advisors and the curriculum committee, we’re pleased to have launched a new Computer Science Work Term 1 curriculum, designed to improve theory-supported curriculum and student engagement by incorporating more reflection in work term course assignments.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**MEETING OF THE CO-OP MINDS**

The second annual Dalhousie Top Co-op Awards was held during National Co-op and WIL Week 2017, recognizing 90 employers for their incredible contributions to co-op education at Dal, and sharing the stories of our newest co-op students of the year.

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