Great minds.
Great work.
Student quotes about the program:

“UBC Science Co-op has allowed me to attain an eclectic mix of skills and experiences that have benefited me in many aspects of life. After my three incredible terms, at three amazing organizations, working in three different and intriguing roles, I have become a well-rounded and talented individual.”

Jasmine Shing, Mathematics Co-op

“The Co-op program has presented me with opportunities to take chances and gain experiences that have revolutionized me as a person and as a working woman in Science...... I unexpectedly found that the experiences gained through the program have led to an abundance of personal growth and of finding myself; or, at least in hindsight, being able to realize how lost I was to begin with.”

Maya Tong, Microbiology Co-op
# Table of Contents

- Program Overview .................................................. 1
- Annual Placements .................................................. 2
- Placement Breakdown ............................................... 3
- Salaries ................................................................. 4
- Location ............................................................... 5
- Employers ............................................................ 6
- Co-op Intake .......................................................... 7
- Program Graduation .................................................. 8
- Students of the Year ................................................. 11
- Photo Contest 2010 .................................................. 13
- Science Co-op Student Association ......................... 14
UBC Science Co-op Program places talented students with participating employers across Canada and around the world. The program offers placements to undergraduate students in all disciplines in the Faculty of Science (BSc and BCS), as well as administering co-op option for students in Engineering Physics (BASc), Land & Food Systems (BSFN), Statistics (MSc) and Atmospheric Sciences (MSc). This report provides a summary of program’s activities for May 2010 to April 2011 period.
Annual Placements

For the May 2010-April 2011 period, 740 students were placed for a total of 1,071 four-month placements. Co-op placements are supervised, paid, full-time, and relevant to the students’ field of study. Despite an economic downturn of the past three years, the Program has managed to retain the placement numbers at the 2008/09 level with a slight increase for the 2010/11 period compared to the 2009/10. Placements are expected to increase by 10% for the current academic year.
Placement Breakdown

The table on right shows a comparison of 2009/10 and 2010/11 placements for various disciplines. Placements for Biology, Engineering Physics, Integrated Sciences, Microbiology and Pharmacology have seen a slight growth whereas placements in Biochemistry, Chemistry and Computer Science have slightly decreased. With the economy and the job market improving over the last year we expect the placements for all disciplines to increase this year. A greater emphasis in growing the Life Sciences co-op programs has resulted in a 6% increase of placements compared to the previous year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATSC</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCS</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOP</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOT</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPSY</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COGS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPSC</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENPH</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENSC</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOSC</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOB</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSCI</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISCI</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFS</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICB</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCTH</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYL</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1047</strong></td>
<td><strong>1071</strong></td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students in UBC Science Co-op earned an average monthly salary of $2450 during the 2010/11 academic year. There was an increase of 4.6% compared to the previous year. Computer Science placements offers the highest average salary of $2800. The average salary for the students in the Life Sciences co-op is $1950 per month. Collectively, Science Co-op students earned around $10 million this year.
The figures above show the distribution of the international placements and placements by province within Canada. In 2010/2011, there were 81 placements overseas which make up 8% of the total annual placements. Students work abroad in exciting destinations such as Germany, Japan, Australia, Austria and China and with the most placements in the United States. Out of the 990 Canadian placements, 86% were in BC. The top out-of-province placements were in Ontario (7%) and Alberta (3%). Working closely with Go Global on campus, UBC Science Co-op ensures students participate in the Safety Abroad Registry prior departure and receive assistance in obtaining the proper visas to work abroad.
For 2010/2011 period 1071 placements were with 280 partnering employers. Of these 59% of the placements were with private businesses, 29% with provincial agencies (29%), about 10% with federal agencies and federal government and the remainder of the placements with the non-profit organizations. UBC remains the largest employer of Co-op students with over 130 on-campus placements. A list of top employers (other than UBC) includes, Research in Motion (RIM), BC Cancer Research Centre, HSBC Bank Canada, SAP, Amgen British Columbia and Tekmira Pharmaceuticals. A list of top 25 employers is provided.
Co-op Intake

In 2010/2011, UBC Science Co-op admitted 480 students. All new students attend a mandatory Boot Camp where they meet and network with other students in the program. At this orientation event, students also receive training on writing a professional resume & cover letter in preparation for the job application process. Students are also required to attend weekly pre-employment training workshops prior to their very first work term. Training topics include interview skills, networking skills, transitioning to the workplace and Employer’s Standards Act etc.
For May 2011 graduation, out of the 1124 new graduates of the Faculty of Science, 211 science students (19%) have participated in at least one Co-op Work term and 158 (14%) of have earned the official Co-op designation by completing the required number of work terms set by their programs. For Engineering Physics, 42 out of the 44 graduates (95%) have participated in one or more work term and 23 (52%) have received Co-op designation by completing all four required work terms. For the Bachelor of Computer Science diploma program, 14 out of 22 students (63%) have successfully acquired the Co-op designation by completing two or more work terms. Lastly, there are 2 co-op graduates from the Land & Food systems program and 1 co-op graduate from each Master level program in Statistics & Atmospheric Sciences.
Awards & Events
Students of the Year 2010

Every year, UBC Science Co-op program presents the Student of the Year award in recognition of stellar students in the program. Co-op students excel not only in academic life but also in their career journey, community involvement and possess amazing talents yet noble attributes. This year’s award recognizes two outstanding students from the program – Alec Lee from the Biotechnology program and Maya Tong from the Microbiology program. For their full bios visit: http://www.sciencecoop.ubc.ca/students/awardwinners2010

Highlights from Alec Lee’s Bio:
- In 2007, co-founded a company “MCAT Question a day”, which provides free test prep services to pre-medical students preparing for the rigorous MCAT examination. Their website launched in 2008 and since then has grown to serve nearly 80,000 users per month. The brand is now licensed to an iPhone application developer and a book of past MCAT questions has been published.
- Co-founder of the UBC-BCIT Biotechnology Club and he has served on the executive team of the Student Biotechnology Network.
- Student Representative for the BCIT Biotechnology program and serving on a BC government committee as a voting student representative.
- In 2009, selected as one of 50 presenters, from over 1000 candidates, at the Education Without Borders International Student Conference in Dubai where he discussed the potential humanitarian uses of genetically modified foods.
- Founded a student organization called Path 2 Prosperity (P2P) while on exchange in Kenya, which collected donated education supplies and fundraising $10,000 to ship the supplies in a container to a village, Kiminini. In May 2011, the donated items helped furnish the library -and computer lab of a local primary school where three-quarters of the students are orphans.
- Worked on a wide range of projects during his four co-op work terms from researching insects and transgenic trees, to market research helping a small herb-grower’s cooperative increase profits, to corporate research developing high-value green products to displace petroleum use.
- Worked in a pilot program iClip (Interdisciplinary Clean-Tech Internship Program to create opportunities where students of various backgrounds can work together on projects for industry.
- Worked in lab and market research roles in Integrative Biosciences Research Cluster (IBRC) & Lignol which confirmed Alec’s career direction where he hopes to one day work with scientific innovators and impact how they do business.
- Completing his Honours Biotechnology program and minoring in Philosophy in May 2011 and has been admitted to the MBA program at Harvard Business School.
Highlights from Maya Tong’s Bio:
-First work term at Stemcell Technologies and which was the top ranked biotechnology company in Vancouver in 2009.
-Helped develop novel research technologies, such as immunomagnetic separation of blood cells and xeno-free media for the growth and differentiation of Mesenchymal stem cells.
-Worked with patients with Hepatitis and HIV in her second placement at the Downtown Infectious Disease Clinic. This experience completely changed her perspective on modern medicine and has inspired her to pursue medicine after graduation.
-Developed her own job with The Institute of Medical and Veterinary Services in Australia working in the Haematology division of South Australia Pathology using mouse models of multiple myeloma to analyze changes in stromal stem cells over the course of the disease.
-Volunteered at both preschools and elementary schools promoting science and encouraging children to be curious about science.
-Executive of the UBC Science Co-op Students Club and was instrumental in founding this club in 2008.
-Held a number of roles with Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) and served as a liaison for SUS and the Microbiology and Immunology Department faculty and students last year.
Photo Contest 2010

The annual photo contest in 2010 was sponsored by our supportive employers Electronic Arts and Microsoft Corporation. The attractive prizes drawn many photo entries to the contest and three talented students were selected for their unique photo submission.

First Place: Kevin Lau, Biology - Why the long face?
Examining coho salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch) subjected to gradually increasing water salinity to simulate migration from fresh water estuary to the ocean. Tissue samples were later harvested to quantify RNA levels.

Second Place: Robert Shum, Bachelor of Computer Science - Niagara Falls (Top Right)
Shot of Niagara overlooking the left side of the falls. I went with friends from SFU who were also doing their co-op at RIM. Niagara falls was about a 3 hour drive from Waterloo, the main headquarters of RIM.

Third Place: Lee Wasilenko, Engineering Physics - Laser Cleaning (Bottom Left)
Regular cleaning of internal laser components is necessary to maintain its intensity.
Science Co-op Student Association

The Science Co-op Students Association (SCOOPS) was founded in 2008 to provide networking and outreach opportunities for current and prospective Science Co-op students. SCOOPS allows students to share their work term experiences and connect with each other.

The SCOOPS website http://www.scoops.ubc.ca/ is the main platform for outreach – by maintaining an online presence, SCOOPS hope to remain available as a resource to students even when they’re off campus or off in another country on a work term.

Some of the resources offered this year include:
- Weekly Seminar Digest
- Ask Albert Column
- Career Conference and events info alert

In 2010/2011, SCOOPS hosted mentorship & networking events in addition to their interview clinics and participation in Co-op workshops. For the latest updates and the new executive committee info, please visit http://www.scoops.ubc.ca/.
“If there’s one thing that really made my educational experience worth while at UBC, it would definitely be UBC Science Co-op.”

Amy Kwok, Pharmacology Co-op