LIFE SCIENCES CO-OP
Microbiology and Immunology (MBIM) Information Session Spring 2023
Who am I?

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www.sciencecoop.ubc.ca
How do you get from here to there?
How do you gain the skills employers expect you to have before graduation?

Excellent communication skills (verbal, written and presentation) both in one-on-one and in group settings. Ability to apply critical and analytical thinking to independently design, conduct, analyze and troubleshoot experiments.

Knowledge of high-throughput cloning and cell transfections. Good organizational skills and the ability to work effectively in a high paced fast changing environment.

Proven experience with statistical analyses of biological data. At least 1 year of relevant experience performing independent laboratory experiments and research in an industry setting of the related field.

Experience in complex biological assay development. Experience with gene editing platforms (i.e. Crispr/cas9 system) Practical experience in immunological assay development, immune cell isolation and cell culture technique is required.

Experience working on team-focused scientific projects is highly desirable. Detail-oriented and proficient at time management.
Undergraduate skill building opportunities...

Wheel of opportunity
-Dr. David Oliver, UBC

Co-operative education (Co-op)

Clubs (iGEM, BIOMOD, MISA)

Summer Student Research Programs (MRPM, SSRP, CBR SSRP, BCCHR SSRP)

NSERC URSA and SURE award programs

Go Global Research Exchange

Courses required by degree

CURE (course-based undergraduate research)

Directed studies courses

UBC REX program

LinkedIn Learning

Research/lab volunteer

Work Learn and/or campus part time jobs

Part time jobs
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What is Co-op?

• Co-op is an opportunity to integrate academic studies with relevant, paid work experience.

Local, national, international positions
What is Co-op?

- Co-op is an opportunity to integrate academic studies with relevant, paid work experience.

- Co-op students gain skills and experience which prepare them for the future job market and give them improved employment opportunities upon graduation.
General overview

2700 + Science students currently active in the Co-op program.

700+ Life Sciences students working every term.

2000 + Microbiology students have been active in the Co-op program since it's inception.

experience Many opportunities, and experience available to Co-op students that are generally not available to non-Co-op students.

success Co-op enables students to achieve greater levels of success in their pursuits after graduation.

team Life Sciences Co-op has an amazing staff of Coordinators, Admin, and Business Development to help students throughout their Co-op journey.
What do former co-op students think about co-op?

“When I think back to the year, I see how far I have come. All I did was fill out a few forms in UBC Scope and participate in a phone interview. As a result, I met so many awesome people and had numerous wonderful experiences. I have become more open and independent due to my Co-op experience.” – Rex Chen, Chemistry

My university experience has been transformative and I largely credit my Co-op Education for guiding my journey. It offered the freedom to explore different avenues of my broad degree and eventually helped me find a suitable career path. I went far (figuratively and literally!) and made lasting friendships and connections along the way. – Lorna Tu, Biophysics

Almost a year later from when I interviewed for my current placement, I can honestly say that applying to the co-op program was one of the best—if not the very best—decisions I made at UBC. I have never felt more challenged, excited, and inspired in my life and I am glad I stepped on the brakes to take the road less traveled. – Judy So, MICB

One of the most profound effects of co-op can be seen by comparing my academic average before and after my work term. I better understand the application of my studies, which in turn motivates me to excel in my classes. – Jung-Bahadur Singh Kandola, Biology

I am grateful for the skills and confidence that I gained during my co-op placement and feel much more ‘employ-able’ as student with significant experience outside of academics. – Laura Meleady, Biochemistry
Examples of Co-op jobs

- Bioinformatics Co-op Student, VGH
- Quality Control Cell Separation, STEMCELL
- Student Research Assistant, Terry Fox Lab
- Marketing Leads, STEMCELL
- Research Assistant, UBC Michael Smith Laboratories
- Research Assistant, Institute of Molecular Biology, A*STAR (Singapore)
- Clinical Trial co-op student, OPSEI
- Research Assistant, McGill University
- Health Promotion Coordinator, UBC School of Population and Public Health
- Co-op Student, BC Cancer Deeley Research Center
- Research Assistant, UBC Faculty of Medicine
- Research Assistant, Virogin Biotech
- Research Technician, Biology, Chinook Therapeutics
- Co-op Japan, Osaka Gas, Japan
- Co-op Student, Protein Engineering, Zymeworks
- Research Assistant, ABM
- Immunology and Immunotherapy Co-op, BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute
- Co-op Student, Screening/Assay Development, adMare BioInnovations (CDRD)
- Virology Research Assistant, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
- Contract Assay Services Co-op student, STEMCELL
- Co-op Student-Research & Co-op Student-Microbiology & Analytical Sciences, Sanofi-Pasteur
- Research Assistant, SickKids Hospital Toronto
- Clinical Research Assistant, St. Paul’s Hospital
- Co-op Student, ICORD
- Co-op Student, In Vitro Pharmacology, Xenon Pharmaceuticals
- Vineyard and Winery intern, Beaufort Vineyard
Program Commitments

Work Terms

• Compete **four 4-month work terms** – increases time to complete degree by **1 year** and provides invaluable experience for your next step (professional school, graduate school, workplace)

Work/study timeline – 2\textsuperscript{nd} year application – Schedule A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fall (Sept)</th>
<th>Winter (Jan)</th>
<th>Summer (May)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Study and co-op workshops</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Study &amp; graduate!!</td>
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# Work/study timeline – Schedule B

Schedule compatible with Honor’s programs or full year courses (example: CAPS 301)

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<td>Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Study - graduate</td>
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## Work/study timeline – Alternate schedules

**Schedule compatible with MICB 322/323 taken during the summer**

**Schedule compatible with students studying for the MCAT or DAT in the summer**

Students will not graduate with co-op designation [https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=4,228,547,732](https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=4,228,547,732)

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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Study</td>
<td>MCAT/DAT or MICB 322/323</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Study - graduate</td>
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Program Commitments

Other Time Commitments

- 10 hrs of “co-op training” (summer/fall 2023, dates TBD)
- At least 2 one-on-one meetings with me Sept-Dec 2023 (45 min each)

Fees

- One Time Co-op workshop fee: $266.75
- Co-op work term fee: $821.75 per term (4x)
  - Total cost of program: $3553 (but you are earning a wage!)
  - *2023/24 fees shown - fees are subject to change – please check the website for current information

- Average salary stats found on our website:
Application Deadline: 11:59pm March 8th 2023

https://sciencecoop.ubc.ca/

Visit our website

Prospective Students > choose program

Apply

Create an account in SCOPE

Apply!
Application Requirements

• Must apply **before the application deadline**
• Must have a minimum of **B- average**
• Must be a **full-time UBC student**
• Must be in **good academic standing**
• Must demonstrate **good communication skills** and a **mature, responsible attitude**
• Must demonstrate **leadership, teamwork** and **time management**
• Must demonstrate **interest in your chosen field**
Application process

1. Fill out online application
2. Upload resume (& transcripts from other institution)
3. Attend intake interview with coordinator
4. If accepted, confirm co-op program

Apply for Co-op

Application forms:

- Undergraduate
- Specializations
- Course Descriptions
- Course Outlines
- Program Advising
- BSc, 112 Registration Information
- Application Processes

Applications will be accepted April 20th - May 20th (11:59 pm), 2019.

For students using second year courses in the application:
- WACE 322/323 and for BHEP major and honours programs
- WACE 322/323 and Combined BHEP-HEP major or honours programs
- WACE 322/323 and Combined MREV-COTT major and honours programs

For students using relevant third year courses in the application:
- Application form for WACE 322/323

You’re in!
SCOPE application

1. Fill out online co-op application on SCOPE
   a. Tell us why you’re interested in co-op
   b. Tell us what you hope to gain from co-op

2. Upload your resume and include:
   • Relevant employment history
   • Extracurricular activities
   • Volunteer experience
Intake interview

- Candidates who meet our minimum requirements will be invited for an interview to assess their suitability to the program.

- Notification is via email only.

- Interviews typically start March or April.

- Interviews are ~20-25 minutes in length.

- Students are asked behavioural, situational and technical questions.

- Co-op program invitations sent out late May-June.
Co-op FAQ

Does a student require previous experience to be eligible for the Co-op program?
• No. Many employers will hire students without having any previous experience.

Should I apply to Co-op now, or in the fall?
• Apply now if you are in 2nd year
• You can apply in the fall when you are in 3rd year as well, but you won’t be able to follow schedule A (starting work in January 2024)

Can a student apply to Co-op, and to Pharmacy, Medicine, etc.??
• Yes…it is sometimes better to apply to more programs on campus than less.

What are my options if I’m not a MBIM major?
• What is your major? Other co-op program options are available: BIOL, BIOC, COGS, BIOPHYSICS, CHEM, INS, etc.)

What if I’m a Combined Major?
• You can apply to co-op as a MBIM student, a CPSC student, or combined majors student (each program have different deadlines).
Co-op FAQ

Do I have to accept a spot in the Co-op program if I apply and am accepted?
- No – you will learn more about the program during the application process and can change your mind before you ‘officially accept’ a spot, if offered.

Can a student drop out of the Co-op program if already accepted?
- Yes, but once you accept you must pay the workshop fee.
- If you have accepted a Co-op job offer or are on a co-op work term, you are committed to finishing the work term with that employer unless there are circumstances such as a health emergency, safety concern, bullying, harassment or discrimination.

Does a Work Learn position count as a co-op work term?
- No, co-op work terms must be full time.

Does a NSERC URSA summer position count as co-op?
- Yes, a research position that is funded by an NSERC URSA can count as a co-op position (after you have been accepted to the co-op program).
Co-op FAQ

Can’t a student find experience on their own?
• A student may be able to; however it is not easy…a lot of employers only what to hire Co-op students, plus the Co-op Business Development Team has a database of over 5,000 employers…essentially, we are able to offer students the chance to apply to a lot of opportunities that generally students cannot acquire through their own efforts!

Can Co-op be combined with going on Exchange (Go Global)?
• Yes! We also have opportunities for international experiences in Singapore, Germany and Japan (and others!) when UBC is supporting international programs (during non-pandemic times)

I am going into Medicine!
• Have you been accepted already? Always have a back-up plan – getting into medicine is not guaranteed. What is your plan if you don’t get into medicine and you don’t have any experience?
Co-op FAQ

Is there a cost to Co-op?
• Yes, UBC administers a “work-term” fee for each 4 month job placement; however, if a student does not acquire a placement, then there is no fee for the student to pay.
• Every Co-op placement is a paid position, so students generally recoup the work-term fee that UBC charges in their first month of their Co-op placement.

If there is fee for Co-op, then what are the benefits of Co-op?
1. Training on: types of jobs/career paths, professional resume and cover letter, interview skills, how to successfully transition to a professional workplace
2. Access to a large database of opportunities not available to non-Co-op students
3. Coordinator and program that guides you through your first experiences in a professional work setting
4. Full-time student status enables you to keep UPASS, student housing, interest-free loan status while in Co-op
5. Skill acquisition (hard & soft skills), network development and expansion, paid work experience
6. Local, national, and global opportunities
Is Co-op worth it?

- Yes! Yes! Yes! And here are the reasons why…

  - **Co-op students become adept at searching, applying, and interviewing for positions.** Co-op is a fantastic opportunity to develop these skills and receive professional guidance along the way.
  
  - **Co-op students achieve greater levels of success, acquire better opportunities, and higher pay** after graduation.
  
  - Getting experience during your undergraduate experience **will set you apart** from everyone else with just a degree and no experience.
Questions?

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