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.

Proven experience with **statistical analyses of biological data**.

**Knowledge of high-throughput cloning and cell transfections**.

Ability to apply **critical and analytical thinking** to independently design, conduct, analyze and troubleshoot experiments.

Experience in complex **biological assay development**

**Good organizational skills** and the ability to work effectively in a high paced fast changing environment.

At least 1 year of relevant experience performing **independent laboratory experiments** and **research in an industry setting** of the related field.

**Detail-oriented** and proficient at **time management**.

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.
Undergraduate skill building opportunities…

- 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
Undergraduate skill building opportunities...

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Work Learn and/or campus 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.
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

Science students currently active in the Co-op program.

Life Sciences students working every term.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1st year 2nd year 3rd year 4th year

+ co-op

1st year 2nd year 3rd year Extra year 4th year
## Work/study timeline – 2\textsuperscript{nd} year application – Schedule A

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<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>
<td>Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Study &amp; co-op workshops</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Study</td>
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<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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<tr>
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**Work/study timeline – Schedule C**

*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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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 (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

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
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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