CO-OP GUIDELINES
University of British Columbia
Master of Architecture
Updated August 11, 2021

Image: Krista Kals
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Introduction to the Co-op Program

Co-op Coordinator:  Greg Johnson  gjohnson@sala.ubc.ca
Co-op Administrator:  Jaynus O'Donnell  jodonnell@sala.ubc.ca

The UBC Architecture Co-operative Education Program integrates a student's academic studies with work experience. Students engage in an eight-month (two continuous terms) long work-term in a professional architectural firm or an office in related fields of design or construction. The program is offered to students who have completed their second year courses. The student is responsible for finding a suitable placement.

Each work situation is approved by the coordinator of the co-op program as a suitable learning situation. The location may be in Canada or international. The student must receive market value remuneration for the work performed. While the location of the placement is taken into consideration, under no circumstance will a placement with no remuneration be considered. The student receives six credits with the completion of a Co-op Workbook.

The student's performance on the job is supervised and evaluated by the student's employer. The Co-op coordinator makes a site visit or phone call to the place of employment mid-way through the work term. At this time both the student and the employer meet with the coordinator to evaluate the student’s progress.

Logging Pre-graduation hours in Internship in Architecture Program (IAP)

A student who is enrolled in a CACB accredited architectural program of study in Canada and who has completed 60 credit hours with that accredited program that satisfies the Student Performance Criteria consistent with the applicable Conditions and Terms for Accreditation published by the CACB is eligible to log up to 760 pre-graduation hours towards the IAP.

The student must enrol as Student Affiliate with the provincial organization where they are undertaking the internship in order to start submitting hours. The student should also obtain from the provincial organization the form letter to be signed by the school, confirming:

1) The student is enrolled in a CACB accredited architectural program of study.

2) The student has completed 60 credit hours in courses that contribute to the Student Performance Criteria for accreditation.
Students in the MArch program must have completed their second year (or first year if Advanced Placement) prior to receiving approval. Students must also be working under the direction of an architect.

Should students undertake a Coop outside of Canada, hours can only be logged if there is a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) in place with Canada. In that regard, the following should be noted (current as of November 2020):

- The CALA website https://cala-roac.ca/professional-mobility/united-states-and-canada-ncarb has the most current list of US states with MRA’s in place.
- Australia has an MRA in place.
- New Zealand has an MRA in place.
- Mexico has an MRA in place.
- There is an MRA signed with the EU, but it has not yet been implemented.

It is strongly recommended that the student contact their provincial regulatory body (AIBC in the case of BC) to ensure they have the most current information regarding working abroad.

Student

The Co-op Program offers the unique opportunity of professional experience in a structured setting. The student also acts as an ambassador for the Architecture Co-op Program and the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

The student:

- contacts the Co-op Administrator and prepares a resume and portfolio;
- submits the Application Form to the Co-op Administrator;
- initiates an independent search for an appropriate Co-op position and submits the Offer of Employment to the Co-op Coordinator
• contacts the Co-op Coordinator to discuss work term expectations prior to beginning work;

• discusses their goals for the work term with the Employer;
• arranges for a site visit between Student, Employer, and Coordinator mid-term during the eight-month work term;
• advises Co-op Coordinator immediately of any concerns or problems with the work term assignment or working environment;
• submits the Student Evaluation and the Employer Evaluation of Co-op Work Term at the end of the work term to the Co-op Administrator.

Employer

The Employer provides challenging, career-related work experience. The Students will be paid, supervised, and evaluated as regular employees by the Employer during the eight-month co-op term.

The Employer:

• provides Co-op Administrator with an Offer of Employment letter which outlines the position, salary and benefits, hours of work, and start and end dates; and assures that the Student will be given a minimum of 1000 hours of employment over a minimum contiguous calendar period of six months;
• provides a Supervisor who oversees the work and discusses expectations for the work term with the Student;
• discusses the Work Term Goals with the Student;
• advises the Student of any issues of confidentiality in the workplace and ensures the student signs any required non-disclosure agreements prior to commencing work;
• participates in the Co-op Coordinator’s mid-term site visit or phone call;
• advises Co-op Coordinator immediately of any concerns or problems with the work term assignment or the student;
• offers direction for, reviews, and signs the Student’s Co-op Workbook;
completes the **Employer Evaluation** of the Student's performance during the work term, discusses it with the Student, for submission to the Co-op Administrator; and

adheres to all current Employment Legislation and Human Rights Acts for the local jurisdiction.

Co-op Program Administration

The Co-op Administrator:

- provides Students, Employers and Faculty Members with information about the Co-operative Education Program;
- tracks student’s progress through the Co-op program.
- registers Students in their work term course (ARCH 555 & 556);
- communicates deadlines to students and employers;
- distributes employment opportunities / job descriptions
- acknowledges employer interview requests and facilitates interviews as appropriate;
- receives required documentation;
- submits the Co-op Work Term Report mark as either Pass or Fail.

The Co-op Coordinator:

- assists in developing employment opportunities;
- monitors progress and advises Students throughout the program;
- advises and assists Employers through all aspects of the co-op process;
- conducts mid-term site visit or phone call, depending on location with Student and Supervisor to address concerns with the work term, submitting a report to Administrator;
- reviews **Co-op Workbook** submitting final report to Administrator; and
- ensures fair and equitable treatment of all partners in the Co-op Program.
Schedule

The following activities are scheduled based on an eight-month work term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of Work Term</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior to work term</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Submits <strong>Application Form</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Finds a suitable position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>Submits <strong>Offer of Employment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Co-op Coordinator</td>
<td>Reviews documentation and discusses position with student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First week</td>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>Assigns <strong>Supervisor</strong> for student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Discusses goals for the work term and the <strong>Co-op Workbook</strong> with Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term, prior to Site Visit</td>
<td>Employer Supervisor</td>
<td>Discusses any problems with student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>Co-op Coordinator</td>
<td>Discusses the placement with both the student and the Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Co-op work term</td>
<td>Employer Supervisor</td>
<td>Completes <strong>Employer Evaluation</strong> and reviews it with student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>Reviews <strong>Co-op Workbook</strong> and signs for release to SALA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Completes <strong>Co-op Workbook</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Completes <strong>Student Evaluation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Co-op Coordinator</td>
<td>Reviews Co-op Workbook for Pass/Fail mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Writes final Co-op term report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Co-op Administrator</td>
<td>Checks to see that all requirements have been met and a Pass/Fail mark is submitted for ARCH 555 and 556.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SALA ARCHITECTURE CO-OP APPLICATION

Name: _________________________
Student Number: ________________
E-mail: _________________________

Please update your current address on the SSC if appropriate.

Are you a Canadian Citizen or Resident ☐ Visa Student ☐ ? (Please ☑)

If you are a Visa Student, have you applied yet for a Working Visa? Yes ☐ No ☐

Attach the following documents to this application:

- A resume including academic and employment history
- A one page statement of your goals during the Co-op

Return application to: Jaynus O’Donnell, Co-op Administrator
The University of British Columbia
Architecture Co-op Program
School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
Room 402 – 6333 Memorial Road
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

Tel: (604) 822-2779  Fax: (604) 822-3808
jodonnell@sala.ubc.ca

For Office Use Only
Application Accepted by: ________________  Date: ________________
OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT

DATE: _______________________________

School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
University of British Columbia
#402 – 6333 Memorial Road
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2
Fax: (604) 822-3808

Attention: Jaynus O'Donnell  jodonnell@sala.ubc.ca
Co-op Administrator

Re: Co-op student ______________________________

Dear Jaynus,

This letter is an offer of employment from ______________________________ to
____________________________ from the date of ______________ to ____________.
During this period, we will offer the student a minimum of 1000 hours of employment, in a period
of no less than 24 weeks.

The starting salary is $_________ and benefits include __________________________

The student’s duties and tasks will include _____________________________

We understand the requirements of the Co-op Program, as outlined in the Co-op Package and
will assure that the expectations of the program are met. As a firm, we adhere to all current
employment legislation in this jurisdiction.

Sincerely,
The purpose of the visit is to:

- ensure that the work term is a positive and educational experience for the student;
- ensure that the placement is beneficial to the employer;
- assess the student's performance and the employer's obligations to ensure that the expectations of both are being met;
- facilitate communication between the student and employer and ensure that conflicts or problems are being addressed.

Discussion with Employer

- Discuss the student’s performance, preparedness for the placement, and any feedback on problems or concerns that they have. This is also an opportunity to discuss their opinions on our co-op program and our students in general.

Discussion with Student:

- Ask the student to discuss the work to date, what they have learned, whether their expectations for the placement are being met, and any problems or concerns that they have. Discuss the student's Co-op Workbook.
Co-op Workbook

The intent of the Workbook is to document your experience. Meet with your supervisor early in the work term to discuss the Workbook. He or she may have suggestions on how to organize and present the information or on the content of the Workbook. Generally the Workbook should include:

- Introduction to the firm, with a statement on your position in the firm, responsibilities, and duties; (approximately 500 words)
- Your goals for the work term (expanded from your application goals) as discussed with your supervisor at the beginning of the term; (approximately 500 words)
- Drawings, photographs, and description of projects that you worked on. Carefully identify who is responsible for the work in the description of the project and on each image. For example you may have been involved with model building on a project but may want to also include some of the drawings completed by others in order to explain the project. The work that is your own will become part of your professional portfolio;
- Assessment of your involvement with each project. What did you learn from your participation on the project(s)? (minimum 1000 words—this is in addition to the description of the projects)

Format:

The format for the Workbook is 8-1/2 x 11 or 11 x 17, bound together. It should not exceed 30 pages. The Co-op Workbook is reviewed and approved by your supervisor. Their signature should be part of the title page. The Workbook may be submitted digitally if a statement and signature from your supervisor is included. The digital submission must follow the same format.

Schedule:

**Week 1 of Co-op Term:**
- Meet with supervisor to review your goals for the work term
- Discuss organization of the Co-op Workbook with your supervisor

**Weekly:**
- Keep a digital diary of projects that you have worked on and an assessment of your involvement.

**Mid-term:**
- Review your workbook progress during the Site Visit with the Co-op Coordinator and your Supervisor.

**End of Co-op Term:**
- Submit your completed workbook for review by the Co-op Coordinator. If not adequate for a passing mark, it will be returned for additional work. (Failure to hand-in the Workbook by the first day of class of the term following the co-op term may result in a loss of credit for the co-op term.)
Employer Evaluation of Co-op Student

Thank you for taking the time to complete this evaluation of the co-op student. Your appraisal will be helpful in their career development.

The person in the best position to evaluate the student’s work should complete this form. Please meet with the student at the end of the work term to discuss the evaluation. Their signature on the form indicates that they are familiar with, and understand, the contents. This evaluation will be available to the student.

Please return this form as soon as possible. Your assistance and interest in the Co-op Program is sincerely appreciated.

Greg Johnson, Co-op Coordinator

STUDENT       Name: ____________________________________________

EMPLOYER    Firm: ____________________________________________
             Address: ____________________________________________
             Supervisor’s Name: __________________________________

Date of Employment: start: __________________ finish: ________________

Total number of hours worked __________________________________

Description of work performed by the student:

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

Areas of Strength            Areas Needing Improvement

1. ____________________________  1. __________________________

2. ____________________________  2. __________________________

3. ____________________________  3. __________________________
Please complete the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Self-starter; looks for work to do; does not waste time</th>
<th>Acts voluntarily in most matters</th>
<th>Acts voluntarily in routine matters</th>
<th>Relies on others; must be told what to do frequently</th>
<th>Always waits to be told what to do next</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization and Planning</strong></td>
<td>Does an excellent job of planning and organizing work and time</td>
<td>Organizes work and time effectively</td>
<td>Does reasonable amount of planning and organizing</td>
<td>More often than not fails to organize and plan work effectively</td>
<td>Consistently fails to organize and plan work effectively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to Learn</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Quick to Learn</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>Rather slow in understanding new information</td>
<td>Very slow in understanding new information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of work</td>
<td>Very thorough in performing work; very few errors, if any</td>
<td>Usually thorough; good work; few errors</td>
<td>Work usually passes review; has normal number of errors</td>
<td>More than average number of errors for student</td>
<td>Work usually done in careless manner; often makes errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>Continually seeks new and better ways of doing things; is extremely innovative</td>
<td>Frequently suggests new ways of doing things; is very imaginative</td>
<td>Has average amount of imagination; has reasonable amount of new ideas</td>
<td>Occasionally comes up with new ideas</td>
<td>Rarely has a new idea; is not very imaginative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judgment</td>
<td>Exceptionally good; decisions based on good analysis of problems</td>
<td>Uses good common sense and makes good decisions</td>
<td>Judgment is usually good in routine situations</td>
<td>Judgment often undependable</td>
<td>Poor judgment; jumps to conclusions without sufficient knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal skills</td>
<td>Always works in harmony with others; excellent team worker; contributes to</td>
<td>Congenial and helpful; works well with associates; seen as an asset in furthering cooperation and group harmony</td>
<td>Most relations with others are harmonious under normal circumstances</td>
<td>Sometimes antagonizes others</td>
<td>Causes friction; frequently quarrelsome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Response to supervision</strong></td>
<td>Willingly accepts suggestions of supervisor</td>
<td>Accepts suggestions of supervisor</td>
<td>Reluctant to accept suggestions of supervisor; sometimes fails to recognize own limitations and fails to ask for direction</td>
<td>Resents suggestions of supervisor</td>
<td>Needs close supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expresses appreciation and takes prompt action on suggestions of supervisor; very open-minded and confident</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Communication – written</strong></th>
<th>Very clear, well organized and easily read</th>
<th>Usually clear and concise</th>
<th>Satisfactory; occasionally encounters difficulty in writing clearly and concisely</th>
<th>Not clear; can cause confusion and interfere with performance of work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Always clear, well organized, concise, readable with few errors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Communication – verbal</strong></th>
<th>Normally very clear and understandable</th>
<th>Usually clear and concise</th>
<th>Satisfactory; occasionally encounters difficulty in speaking clearly and concisely</th>
<th>Not clear; can cause confusion and interfere with the performance of work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conveys information clearly, well organized and easily understood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Leadership qualities</strong></th>
<th>Excellent; promotes enthusiasm; can direct others</th>
<th>Above average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Poor; unable to organize or motivate others</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Overall performance</strong></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Above average</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Needs improvement</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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**Signature of supervisor**  
**Date**

**Signature of student**  
**Date**

**Return Evaluation to:**  
Jaynus O’Donnell, Co-op Administrator  
UBC SALA  
Room 402 – 6333 Memorial Road  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2  
Tel: (604) 822-2779 Fax: (604) 822-3808  
jodonnell@sala.ubc.ca
Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on your work term. Your comments will help us evaluate the Architecture Co-op Program.

STUDENT Name: _____________________________________________

Co-op Coordinator’s Name: _________________________________

EMPLOYER Firm: ___________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________

Supervisor’s Name: _______________________________________

Date of Employment: start____________________ finish____________________

Job Duties/Work Performed:
Position Feedback:

Job Description by Employer: □ Accurate □ Fairly Accurate □ Misleading
Orientation to the Office: □ Excellent □ Satisfactory □ Poor
Job Met Expectations: □ yes □ Partly □ No
Job Difficulty: □ Too Hard □ Just Right □ Too Easy
Work Load:
  Quantity □ Too Much □ Just Right □ Not Enough
  Quality □ Too Hard □ Just Right □ Not Easy
Supervision:
  Frequency □ Too Much □ Just Right □ Not Enough
  Quality □ Excellent □ Satisfactory □ Poor
Learning: □ More than expected □ As Expected □ Not Enough

Did you have a mid-term performance review? □ yes □ no
Did you have regular meetings with your supervisor? □ yes □ no
Did you have an exit interview? □ yes □ no
Would you recommend this placement for students in the future? □ yes □ no

What were the most valuable aspects of your position?

What were the least valuable aspects of your position? What would have improved these aspects?

Has this employment changed or confirmed your career or academic goals? How?

Additional comments:

_________________________________________  __________________________
Signature of Student                        Date
The purpose of this review is to summarize the student’s experience based partially on the Co-Op Workbook. Comments might be included from the mid-term review and the employers review. It should be noted that all requirements have been met for the Co-op. This will be useful for future references requested by the student.