

**We asked students about their
co-op work terms and these
were their answers**

Carlos Cornejo

Post Degree Diploma - Business Administration in General Management



About

Camosun College PDD in Business Administration in General Management student, Carlos Cornejo, applied their academic knowledge at **Ministry of Attorney General**

Work Term

1. What was your biggest take-away from your work term?

It is not enough to simply do a good job. If you want to be the best and achieve your goals, you must work hard. Give your 101%.

2. What was your favourite part of your position?

Making the COA forecast is my favourite part of my job. It's a forecast report that our area has to do every Thursday morning. I like it because it makes me feel that I'm relieving my boss from a significant amount of work.

3. How do you think your co-op work term will help you in the future?

The experience that the government is giving me will allow me to work in much more complex jobs and accelerate my professional development.

4. How did you find your position? Did the Career Lab and your employment facilitator helped you to prepare your application for the position?

I found it through the Camousn College co-op portal, called Education That Works. I will never be able to reach my goals without them. My employment facilitator taught me how to search and apply for co-ops, and helped me to prepare for interviews.

5. Do you have any advice for students looking for one?

My best piece of advice is to not be shy about seeking assistance. Don't give up until you accomplish your goals.

Co-op Position:
Finance Co-op
Student

Company:
Ministry of Attorney
General

Relevant Skills:

- Oracle
- Power Query
- Time Management

Christine Mai

Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting



About

Camosun College BBA in Accounting student, Christine Mai, applied their academic knowledge at Grant Thornton

Work Term

1. What was your biggest take-away from your work term?

It is to check all the possible resources I have before asking questions from anyone else. I'm a talkative person, so I have grown used to asking people for answers before finding it myself. However, since everyone is busy at work, I have learnt where to go for answers before asking others.

2. What was your favourite part of your position?

It is definitely the constant need for learning new things. I'm a learner, so new knowledge excites me. Even though we are not in the personal tax season yet, I got to have my hand on some simple non-resident T1s and a date-of-death T1. I had a great experience trying things that I didn't learn in school.

3. How did co-op benefit you personally and professionally?

Professionally, I have found having real-world experience definitely makes me feel more prepared to be an accountant. Moreover, the time working here will also help with my resume for a full-time job in the future. Personally, having an open learning space has felt like such a blessing to me. It's especially helpful for me to also figure out what I enjoy or not enjoy in accounting.

4. Do you have any advice for students looking for one?

If you plan to take a work term as an accountant, winter semester is probably a better time to plan for since most public firms are in high demand for accountants in tax season. Companies normally hire accountants way earlier than you expect, so always be ready.

Co-op Position:
Tax Analyst

Company:
Grant Thornton

Relevant Skills:

- Research
- Tax-preparation
- Accounting software:
Caseware,
TaxPrep

Colby Jomha

Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting

About

Camosun College BBA in Accounting student, Colby Jomha, applied their academic knowledge at Grant Thornton



Work Term

1. What was your biggest take-away from your work term?

I think so far that in this industry January is an extremely slow month but once the busy season hits, it gets real busy. As well as you need to be in control of your own work and your own time, as you aren't told when to do things (for the most part) and you are expected to complete all your files/assignments before they are due.

2. What was your favourite part of your position?

It is working on the T3's as they generally take a bit more time than the T4s and 5s, and require a bit more skill and knowledge. I recently worked on and finished three T3's for the same client and had to grab the info from one and put it into the next, while also performing the regular T3 tasks along with other things that took about half a day, but it was really enjoyable. And also getting to work with everyone at my company and going to meetings.

3. How has your co-op benefited you?

I have benefited from my co-op by learning what the industry is like, as one of the reasons I took the co-op was to see if I want to be in accounting after I graduate.

4. How do you think your co-op will help you in the future?

My co-op will help by giving me connections, experience, and insider knowledge of how the industry/business works and how to be a good employee.

5. Do you have any advice for students looking for one?

Apply to as many jobs as you can!

Co-op Position:
Tax Analyst

Company:
Grant Thornton

Relevant Skills:

- T slips
- Communication
- Work under little supervision

Dylan Leney

Bachelor of Business

Administration in Accounting

About

Camosun College BBA in Accounting student, Dylan Leney, applied their academic knowledge at Grant Thornton

Work Term

1. Tell me about your experience?

I am a co-op tax student, I am in the domestic team which means Canadian Tax only. My job at the moment is preparing clients' personal tax returns ranging from low to medium difficulty. In the first two months of the co-op, January to the end of February, I was responsible for reconciling the clients' T4 and T5 information. Since I am a second-year co-op student, I am responsible for helping coach the newer co-op students and being someone they can go to try to learn from if they have any questions or if they need any help.

2. What was your favourite part of your position?

I would say my favourite part is working in a multicultural environment where cultural differences bring a lot of learning.

3. How has your co-op benefited you?

I am trying to remind myself to listen more so I can be more present and more helpful. I have been developing my patience, even with myself, realizing that I am not an expert. I am new, and I am learning as much as everybody else in the room.

4. Do you have any advice for students looking for one?

The advice I would say is: GO GET IT! Try something new and pull yourself out of your comfort zone. I was an individual working in construction without a degree, with no hopes of going anywhere in my life and I had an opportunity arise, so I took advantage of it. That's what brought me to Camosun. If there are any individuals out there that are in the same situation, remember to keep your chin up and try something new. Remember you will be able to accomplish anything you set your mind to.



Co-op Position:
Tax Analyst

Company:
Grant Thornton

Relevant Skills:

- Listening
- Patience
- Coaching abilities

Julia Berezin

Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing

About

Camosun College BBA in Marketing student, Julia Berezin, applied their academic knowledge at Applied Learning, Co-operative Education & Career Services department at Camosun College.

Work Term

1. What was your biggest take-away from your work term?

Office culture is so important. I didn't know it was important to prioritize working in a good office culture until I started my co-op. When you work in a good and healthy environment you feel more productive, more capable and more confident. The office culture at my co-op was so amazing that I felt supported and capable of accomplishing not only what was required but more tasks and projects.

2. What was your favourite part of your position?

My favourite part was communicating with internal and external stakeholders, creating marketing materials for the department and coming up with new projects. Connecting with my coworkers was also my favourite part. I loved to listen to their career paths, life stories and anything else they felt comfortable sharing with me.

3. How has your co-op benefited you?

My co-op helped me improve my communication skills, mainly my written communication skills in an office environment. It helped me to put in practice my professional skills such as research, time management, the accuracy of work produced, use of Outlook and Teams. This co-op also helped me feel more confident in the work I produced and this happened because my coworkers, supervisor, manager and director were always so supportive of my ideas and projects I worked on. They gave me the right support and confidence to shine!

4. How do you think your co-op work term will help you in the future?

I learned so much about marketing, how to target social media posts to the right target audience, how to communicate with different target audiences, how to coordinate and support a variety of events and much more. All the experiences I got at this co-op will help me succeed in my next job opportunity. It also gave me a different perspective on the courses took and I will look differently at the next courses I take. This co-op taught me an important lesson that I will remember for the rest of my life, the importance of a work/life balance.

5. How did you find your co-op position?

I found my position through Camosun's job portal, Education That Works. I was always checking this portal for new job opportunities and making sure I paid attention to the application deadlines.

6. Do you have any advice for students looking for one?

The co-op might feel intimidating sometimes but the solution for it is having a positive mindset and to be yourself. Coffee chats, kitchen talks and chats with your coworkers, supervisors, managers and directors are so important. Make sure you ask them how they got there (to their position) and if they have any advice for you. A good skill to have is being open to feedback. No one is perfect, you are just starting your job and your colleagues might have amazing insights that you can learn from. So be open to feedback!



Co-op Position:
Student Success
Communications
Coordinator

Company:
Camosun College

Relevant Skills:

- Communication
- Research
- Time Management



Martin Kurian

Post Degree Diploma - Business Administration in Marketing



About

Camosun College PDD in Marketing student, Martin Kurian, applied their academic knowledge at BC Pension Corporation

Work Term

1. What was your biggest take-away from your work term?

Time Management, teamwork & being flexible at all times is really important to manage projects. Projects can be unpredictable and unexpected challenges can arise. Since I work on different things at the same time, it's really important for me to keep track of the tasks assigned to me and make sure to ask the right questions at the right time.

2. What was your favourite part of your position?

It is the opportunity to connect, work with colleagues from different departments and to work on different projects.

3. How did co-op benefit you personally and professionally?

With every day passing by, I'm getting confident in managing my time efficiently, planning, coordinating, and evaluating all the things that I do personally and professionally. Being able to plan my entire day and the upcoming weeks when it comes to my work and personal life keeps me on track. It also helps me evaluate things that I do and how I could do them better or in a different way.

4. How do you think your co-op work term will help you in the future?

My experience has given me a clear picture of the path I need to take in order to be a Project Manager. My co-op provides me with valuable hands-on experience and exposure to various aspects of project management. The projects I have been working on help me to build a strong foundation of knowledge and experience in the field. All the skills I have been developing in the co-op are transferable skills to other fields, especially in the field of Event Management, which I'm looking forward to.

5. How did you find your co-op position?

I got this co-op through the college portal, www.EducationThatWorks.ca. I used to make sure to look for co-ops every week. I used to regularly meet with my co-op employment facilitator to improve my resume, cover letter, and interview skills.

6. Do you have any advice for students looking for one?

I feel that every student should do a co-op as it is a good way to gain applied learning experience in their field of study. This can help them gain the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in their chosen career. Whatever you do in class is all in a simulation but during a co-op you get to apply the concepts you learned to real situations. You get to network with so many people, which helps in building a professional network in the industry. In the end, it gives you a competitive advantage and experience working in a professional environment.

Co-op Position:
Talent Projects
Coordinator

Company:
BC Pension
Corporation

Relevant Skills:

- Project management
- Time management
- Communication

Mauricio Veliz

Davalos

Diploma - Business

Administration in Marketing



About

Camosun College Marketing Student, Mauricio Veliz Davalos, applied their academic knowledge at BC Transit

Work Term

1. What was your favourite part of your position?

My favourite part of my position is variety. I do a lot of different things.

2. How has your co-op benefited you personally and professionally?

Personally, it is building self-discipline. Professionally, networking and getting experience.

3. How do you think your co-op work term will help you in the future?

I am learning so many things that I didn't learn in school. It is serving me as a guideline of what my future can be.

4. How did you find your co-op position?

I found my position through Camosun College portal, Education That Works.

5. Anything you would like to say to other students looking for a co-op?

A co-op helps you find your passion and interest with actual experience. Look for what you are passionate about. Don't settle for something just to have a co-op. There are a lot of opportunities available.

Co-op Position:
Marketing Coordinator

Company:
BC Transit

Relevant Skills:

- Self Management
- Creative Writing
- Research

Miwa Kimbara

Post Degree Diploma - Business Administration in Accounting



About

Camosun College PDD in Accounting student, Miwa Kimbara, applied their academic knowledge at Grant Thornton

Work Term

1. Tell me about your experience?

I am in the US tax team, and I do some domestic personal tax returns. Some of them are similar and some of them are different. We have a “buddy”, everyone has a “buddy” that you can ask questions. So I have questions, my “buddy” sits right next to me and I can ask them. In addition, I had an opportunity to go to Toronto for a duration of 3 days for training.

2. What was your favourite part of your position?

What I like about working here is that we have people working all around Canada. For example, I am the only US tax co-op student so when I have questions about US tax related and I don't want to bother my busy managers I can just chat with people through Teams from other offices, like in Vancouver. I also really like this environment where if I have anything in mind I can always ask.

3. How has your co-op benefited you?

I started my accounting program last summer, so I came here with limited knowledge. I got a lot of training and we have in-depth training for Canadian personal tax returns.

5. Do you have any advice for students looking for one?

I got an offer very early, so I didn't go to Career Fairs, but I strongly recommend it. My friend went to one and she had the opportunity to network with a lot of different employers.

Co-op Position:
Tax Analyst

Company:
Grant Thornton

Relevant Skills:

- Time Management
- Listening
- Detail-oriented

Simone Sotto

Post Degree Diploma - Business Administration in Accounting



About

Camosun College PDD in Accounting student, Simone Sotto, applied their academic knowledge at Grant Thornton

Work Term

1. Tell me about your experience?

I am currently in IBG, Independent Business Group, and my main role is doing validation. It is preparing the Caseware file of the account that holds the record review or engagements they have. I also help with the preparation of T1.

2. What was your favourite part of your position?

My favourite part of my position is meeting new people. I am a very shy person so meeting new people helps me to be able to go out of my comfort zone, communicate with others and make new friends.

3. How has your co-op benefited you?

My co-op is helping me to get better on my verbal and written professional communication skills. My co-op is also helping me on my accounting knowledge.

4. Do you have any advice for students looking for one?

I am an international student and when I first applied for a co-op I was thinking “why would they choose me?” but I did get my position. So what I suggest is to apply for all the jobs you want and if you receive the offers, choose the one you want the most.

Co-op Position:
Accountant Co-op

Company:
Grant Thornton

Relevant Skills:

- Written Communication
- Verbal Communication
- Accounting Knowledge

Xi Guo

Diploma - Business Administration in Accounting



About

Camosun College Accounting student, Xi Guo applied their academic knowledge at Grant Thornton

Work Term

1. Tell me about your experience?

I am in IBG, Independent Business Group, and my main role is doing validation as well. It is preparing the Caseware file of the account that holds the record review or engagements they have. I do the same as my co-worker, we are always communicating and facing the same problems. I also help with the preparation of T1.

2. What was your favourite part of your position?

My favourite part of my co-op is that I work with other 5 co-op students from Camosun College, so I have company. We have a small community here: the Camosun Group. The work environment is definitely my other favourite part, it helps me to keep building relationships with new people.

3. How has your co-op benefited you?

My co-op is helping me to work on my time management skills. Before my co-op, I was not really efficient with my time and I would take too much time to finish something but now I am working on this skill. Plus, my co-op is definitely benefitting me to get better at writing professional emails.

4. Do you have any advice for students looking for one?

Just apply to as many co-ops as you want to. I applied and I was really happy when I saw that my company wanted to hire me to work for them.

Co-op Position:
Accountant Co-op

Company:
Grant Thornton

Relevant Skills:

- Time Management
- Office Communication
- Accounting Knowledge