

University of British Columbia Okanagan

Master of Engineering Internship Stream

Frequently Asked Questions

Program Details and Requirements

What is the MEng internship stream?

The internship stream is one of two options available for the [MEng program](#). This stream begins with 12 months (3 academic terms) of coursework where you will complete all your credit requirements for your masters degree. Following your academic terms, you will then participate in an internship for 4, 8, or 12 months depending on the length of internship that you secure. The internship is facilitated by the [UBC Engineering Co-op Program](#). If you opt into the internship stream, you will be required to attend mandatory pre-employment workshops during your academic terms, and your job search for your internship will begin 4-6 months prior to the start of your internship in September 2022.

Are international students eligible to participate in the internship stream?

Yes. International students can participate in the internship stream but are required to apply for a [co-op or intern work permit](#) (in addition to holding a valid study permit) to legally work in Canada on a UBC -approved internship. The UBC Engineering Co-op Program will provide you with a letter for your co-op work permit application that confirms the internship is a requirement for your Master of Engineering degree. For any further inquiries on work permits or study visas, please contact International Programs & Services at ips.ubco@ubc.ca.

How much does it cost to participate in the internship stream?

There are two types of fees associated with participation in the internship stream:

- [Co-op administration and workshop fee](#) - The co-op administration and workshop fee is a one-time, non-refundable of \$256.75* that is paid upon entry into the internship program.
- [Co-op course fee](#) – The co-op course fee is \$790* which is assessed only once you have secured an internship and are registered in the internship course by the Co-op Office. The co-op fee is required for every four-months of your internship (ex. if you secure an 8-month internship, you will be charged the co-op fee twice over this time period). The fee is due by the [due dates](#) specified in the UBC Okanagan Academic Calendar, whether the internship position is secured through the Co-op Program or through your own self-directed job search.

As you have paid the minimum three instalments for your Master of Engineering degree program, the only fee you will be required to pay is the Co-op fee and regular [UBC student fees](#).

** The listed fee rates are for 2020/21 and for reference only. Tuition fees are reviewed annually by the Board of Governors and historically these two fees increase by 2% each year. Therefore, in September 2022 when you are scheduled to participate in your internship, the fees for the 2022/2023 academic year are likely to be approximately 4% higher than the fee rates noted above.*

What are the requirements for participation in the internship stream?

Students that choose to participate in the internship stream are required to:

- Pay a one-time, non-refundable [Co-op administration and workshop fee](#) of \$256.75* upon entry into the program

- Attend mandatory pre-employment workshops that are important and critical to their success. You will learn how to write effective cover letters and resumes, improve interviewing skills, understand the purpose of networking, and review internship resources and processes, and more. You must take part in all workshops and complete all requirements to proceed in the internship stream. Students who do not successfully complete the workshops are ineligible to proceed in the internship program.

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Finding an Internship

How do I find a job?

Securing a job is a competitive process and is not guaranteed; therefore, it is up to you to put in effort and prioritize your job search. It is ultimately your responsibility to secure an internship opportunity. You will have access to the Co-op Program's exclusive co-op job portal and support of the Co-op team. You should also be completing a self-directed job search utilizing your network (friends, professors, industry connections, etc.) and other resources (company websites, LinkedIn, Indeed, etc.) to find opportunities suited to you. Any position can be used for the internship, regardless if the position is secured through the Co-op Program or through your own self-directed job search. Your designated Co-op Coordinator will work with you and support you in your job search with pre-employment workshops, in-person appointments, and 1:1 coaching.

When should I start searching for my internship?

You should start searching for your internship approximately 4-6 months in advance the start of the internship term in September 2022 and after you have completed the mandatory pre-employment training workshop and met with your designated Co-op Coordinator.

Are internship opportunities guaranteed?

No. Securing a job is a competitive process and is not guaranteed. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to secure an internship so you must put effort into your job search and applications. Internship students have access to the program's exclusive co-op job portal and support of the Co-op team. The more positions applied to (with a high-quality application), the higher the chance you have of securing a job.

What companies hire internship students?

The Engineering Co-op Program is connected with hundreds of employers offering exciting opportunities for students to make meaningful industry connections, gain practical experience, and develop new skills.

Some of our top employers include: Intel, SAP, Teck Resources, Ballard Power Systems, BC Hydro, Sierra Wireless, Microchip, Hydro One Networks, Stantec, Canfor, Thurber Engineering, City of Surrey, City of Vancouver, Stemcell Technologies, PCL Construction, Shell Canada, Cadex, Metro Vancouver, Peace River Hydro Partners, Metro Testing + Engineering, Tesla, TC Energy, Imperial Oil, Ledcor Group, Fortis BC, ConeTec Investigations, TTT Studios.

It is important to note that any employer can be an internship employer provided they are able to provide you with a full-time, minimum 12 weeks long, and paid work experience related to your academic program and/or long-term career objectives.

Do I have to work in British Columbia?

No. Internship opportunities are available across numerous industries, organizations, and geographic locations. Many internship opportunities are in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario, but there are opportunities available all across Canada, in the United States of America, and around the world*. Students can seek out opportunities in any geographic region of interest but should not be too restrictive to increase success in securing a position.

** All international academic activities have been suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic*

What are my chances of securing an internship?

As the Master of Engineering program's structure was recently revised, we cannot comment on the success of students currently completing the internship stream. Fall is typically a less competitive job search with a lower number of students searching for positions, and the Engineering Co-op Program's success rate for Fall 2020 was 82% and for Fall 2019 was 95%.

Other

Can I complete my studies in fall and winter look for internships commencing in May?

No. This program has been designed specifically for you to start your internship in September, when the job search is less competitive and you have completed your academic degree requirements. As this internship is at the end of your degree, employers may hire you for permanent, full-time positions upon completion of your internship if mutually agreed upon. You must pay for a minimum 3 instalments for the academic terms of your MEng degree, as described in the [UBCO Academic Calendar](#). Your internship does not count towards these 3 instalments.

Do the co-op course credits count towards my degree requirements?

No. The co-op course credits are non-additive and do not count towards your [degree coursework requirements](#). If you are successful in securing an internship, you will be considered a full-time student throughout the duration of your internship and you will extend the duration of your degree, which can increase the length of your post-graduation work permit.

How much money will I make working as an engineering intern?

All internship positions must be paid positions and meet the minimum wage requirements for the jurisdiction where the internship position is based. In British Columbia, the minimum wage will be \$15.20 per hour starting June 1, 2021. Unpaid work or work not meeting the wage requirements will not be eligible for the internship.

Most internship students earn more than the British Columbia or other provincial/territorial minimum wage. Please refer to the UBC Engineering Co-op Program's website for details on the typical [salaries](#) co-op students earn while on a work term.

How do I pay the Co-op administration and workshop fee?

The one-time non-refundable [Co-op administration and workshop fee](#) is paid online, directly to the UBC Engineering Co-op program not through the Student Service Centre (SSC). Full details on how to pay this fee will be communicated to you upon entry into the internship program.

What happens if I am unable to secure an internship?

If you are unable to secure an internship, you will apply to graduate with your Master of Engineering degree and start your new graduate job search.

If I have more questions about internship stream, who can I contact?

If the answer to your question is not found in these frequently asked questions, please contact the UBC Engineering Co-op Program at eng.coop@ubc.ca.