

# First-Year Information Session Computer Science & Data Science



# What is Co-op?

- Hands-on, practical work experience
- Optional program
- Available to students in Honours Arts or Science programs

# Benefits of participating in the Co-op program

- Helps to clarify your career path
- Fundamentals Course
  - Assists with skills development – eg. hard/soft skills and learn valuable job search skills
- Personal assistance from a Co-ordinator
- Access to postings - Navigator





# Application Process



**Stage 1** – Apply! All programs start accepting applications in March through Navigator

Application deadline is:

Monday, September 14, 2020

**Stage 2** – Students are contacted in the summer via their “mylaurier” email account about the Co-op admission interview. Students submit resumes to the Co-op Office 24 hrs before their interview, your resume will need to include contact information (names, phone number and email address) as well as start and end dates for any work and volunteer experiences.

**Stage 3** – Coordinators select successful applicants

# Eligibility for Computer Science & Data Science

- May apply for admission to co-op at the beginning of their second year
- Those who achieve a minimum overall GPA of 7.0 at the end of year one will be eligible for a co-op admission interview
- Students must maintain a minimum overall GPA of 7.0 at the end of 2A to be eligible for co-op.
- Interviews will take place during your Fall 2A term and decisions shared at the beginning of Winter term (2B)



# CS & DS

## Work/Study Sequence

Term	Fall (Sept-Dec)	Winter (Jan-April)	Spring (May-Aug)
Year 1	Study Term	Study Term	Summer Vacation
Year 2	Study Term	Study Term Fundamentals	Study Term
Year 3	Work Term #1	Study Term	Work Term #2
Year 4	Study Term	Work term #3	Study Term

# Eligibility for Professional Experience Program

- The only entry point for PEP co-op is at the beginning of the fall term in third year.
- Applicants to PEP need an overall cumulative GPA of at least 7.0 by the end of their second year, or a GPA of at least 7.0 in their honours discipline courses and at least 6.5 overall.
- Students must have completed 10 credits in order to apply
- Students must be able to return to one full-time academic term
- No interview component of application





# Professional Experience Program (PEP)

Term	Fall (Sept-Dec)	Winter (Jan-April)	Spring (May-Aug)
Year 1	Study Term	Study Term	Summer Vacation
Year 2	Study Term	Study Term	Summer Vacation
Year 3	Study Term Fundamentals	Study Term Fundamentals	Work Term Begins
Year 4	WT Continued	WT Continued	WT Continued
Year 5	Study Term	Study Term	





# Competitive Admissions Process

During the co-op interview you are evaluated equally on:

1. Volunteer and extracurricular activities (senior year of high school and first year of university)
2. Previous work experience
3. GPA
4. Admission interview performance

# The Interview

- We will consider the quality of all your answers when evaluating your interview performance.
- Your ability to communicate your skills and accomplishments is a key component of the interview.
- We consider your ability to be concise and stay within the 15 minutes allotted when assessing your interview performance.
- When telling us how you have developed certain skills, we encourage you to use examples from various experiences.
- At the end of the interview we will ask you to tell us anything you wish to add in support of your application. Be sure to tell us about any accomplishments or experience you have not had an opportunity to mention earlier.



# The Interview

- We assess what candidates communicate in the interview, not items listed on the resume.
- We don't consider activities you're going to do (only what you've done up until the end of O-week.)
- Most students choose Laurier in part because of co-op; we are not able to consider this as reason to admit students.
- Selection is based equally on all 4 categories, lack of experience in one category is a challenge

# The STAR Method

## ▪ **STAR**

**SITUATION** – provide a good framework, why it was a challenging situation

**TASK** – the problem / task at hand that needs to be solved

**ACTION** – the steps YOU took in detail

**RESULT!** – the end result; was it successful?

- Make sure your answer has a beginning, a middle and an end



# The Interview

- Depending on the program you have applied for, the timeline for interviews will vary
  - Arts & Science – Early Fall
  - CS/DS/AWS – Early/Late Fall
- Competitive
  - 200-300 applicants
  - 90-100 admitted



# Fundamentals Schedule ex. A&S



<b>September / October</b> Welcome Information session Navigator session Resume and cover letter workshops Resumes due for review	<b>February</b> Interviews begin Job postings continue
<b>November / December</b> Job search workshop Personal job search begins Speaker's Series	<b>March</b> Work term preparation workshop Job postings and interviews continue
<b>January</b> Interview skills workshop, mock Interviews Job postings begin Rank/match sessions	<b>April / May / June</b> Personal job search Job postings and interviews continue  <b><u>Summers:</u></b> Work term report and visit by co-



# Fundamentals Course

- Additional course requirement *on top of* your regular course load
- Receive academic credit on a pass/fail basis
- Although more work, it is valuable and will help get you prepared



# Realities of Co-op

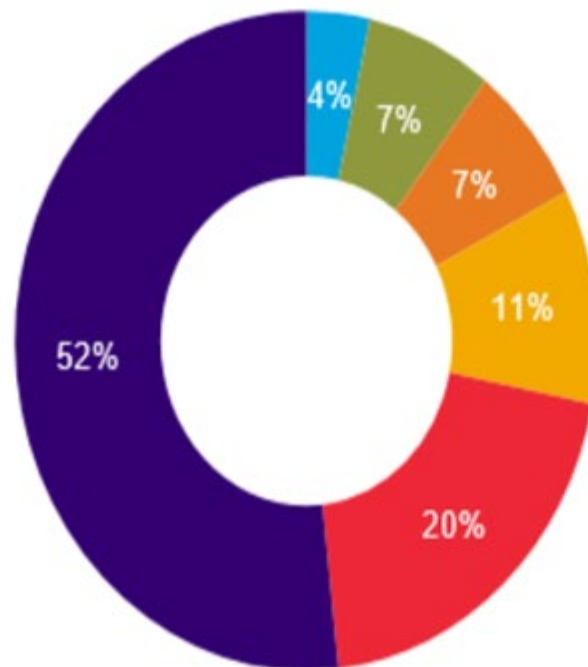
- Employment rate
  - 90%, but most not until June
  - 50% secured in early April
- Relocation for the work-term
- Job search
  - Navigator & personal search
  - Balance between the two and support from your coordinator
- Types of Roles
  - Limitations (education, clinics, etc)
- Required time and effort
- Co-op fees/salaries



# Student Employment – Employment Sectors

Count of Organization Sector

Employment By Organization Sector



Organization Sector ▼

Provincial

Municipal

Federal

Academic

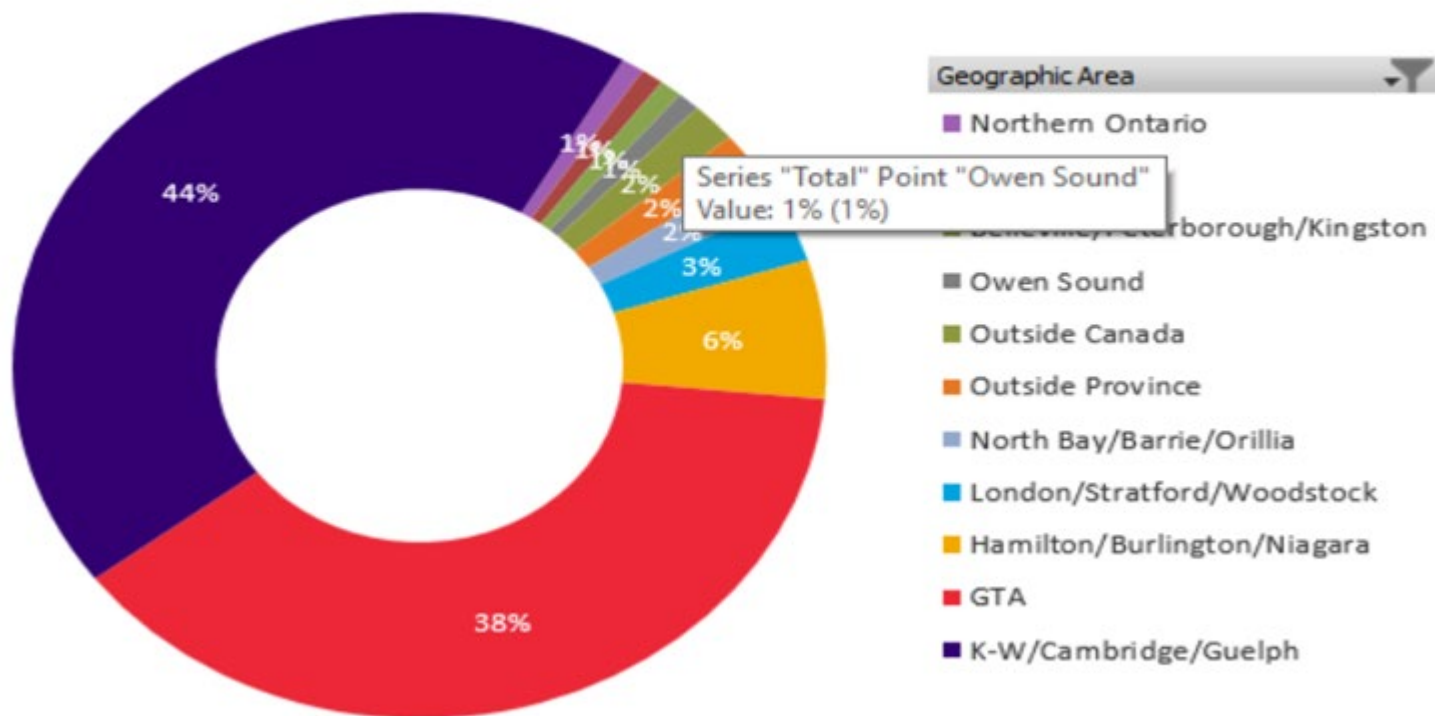
Non Profit

Private

# Student Employment – Geographic Areas

Count of Geographic Area

Employment By Geographic Area





# Average Weekly Salaries 2019

	First Work Term		Second Work Term	
	High	Low	High	Low
<b>Academic</b>	\$630	minimum wage	\$700	minimum wage
<b>Federal</b>	-	-	\$578	\$578
<b>Municipal</b>	\$825	\$531	\$818	\$525
<b>Non Profit</b>	\$720	minimum wage	\$593	minimum wage
<b>Private</b>	\$929	\$450	\$994	\$504
<b>Provincial</b>	\$675	\$675	\$618	\$618
<b>Overall Average</b>	\$651			

# Sample Technical Roles

Analytics & Data Science Co-op (TD Bank) – Assist with analytics and research to review internal models, tools, and policies

Data Analyst (Linamar) – Working with the Corporate Financial Systems Team, you will be analyzing large amounts of data and discovering trends in order to generate and forecast predictions

Senior Data Analyst (CIBC) - This role will contribute to ITF&I's strategic and tactical processes by providing meaningful, accurate and complete data searches of electronic information for the development, support and preservation of evidence for investigations, regulatory compliance and legal.



# Sample Technical Roles

Data Engineering Analyst (Deloitte) - Taking a hands-on role in delivering advisory services to high growth organizations with a diverse team consisting of data scientists, data architects, software developers, information designers, and business/industry leaders

Data Science Internship (Shopify) – Help build a near-real-time data ingestion system and a near-real-time data warehouse to help develop recommendations to make merchants more productive

Data and Reporting Co-op Student (CST Consultants) – critical member of the team responsible for developing and delivering reports and generating insights to improve the customer experience. Review historical data and performance metrics to analyze and provide feedback.

# Sample Technical Roles

Security Software Engineer Co-op (Manulife) – Testing of applications, APIs. And mobile apps using Java, GraphQL and other technologies.

Infrastructure Software Development Student (Blackberry) – Perform systems analysis and application design related to Blackberry Services and implementing code changes in tools

Information Technology Development Student (Bruce Power) – Identify support tools, performance reporting mechanisms and management procedures.

Automation Engineer Co-op (Manulife) – Review design documents and create automation test scripts using Java or Python

Back-End Developer Intern (IBM) – Employ IBM's design thinking to create products that provide a great user experience along with high performance, quality and stability.

DevOps Engineer (NCR) – Design and improve the CI/CD pipeline using Agile practices and engaging in design reviews, code review and testing



# Computer Science



# Drop-in Sessions

- We will invite first-year students to attend a drop-in session during National Co-op Week in March. You may ask co-op staff questions about co-op.
  - March 18 2-4 pm
- We will also be running another information session if there is anything you still have questions about!
  - March 11 2-3 pm





# Contact Us



## Questions?

Adam Rooke- [arooke@wlu.ca](mailto:arooke@wlu.ca)

Amy Beamer- [abeamer@wlu.ca](mailto:abeamer@wlu.ca)

Melissa Walters - [mwalters@wlu.ca](mailto:mwalters@wlu.ca)

For more information please visit our website:

[students.wlu.ca/work-leadership-and-volunteering/co-op](http://students.wlu.ca/work-leadership-and-volunteering/co-op)