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1) Strong attention to detail
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Embassy of Canada: Intern in the Trade Section

My co-op work term at the Embassy of Canada in Beijing was a lot more than what I had expected. As an intern in the Trade section, not only did I have exposure to the fundamental aspects of the Canada-China trade relationship, but also to the valuable experience of participating in and witnessing many visits of high officials and internal events at the Embassy. Over a six-month period, I had the opportunity to organize meetings for several Canadian delegations, as I had been tasked to organize eight meetings with the Chinese government agencies for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s visit in Beijing.

The highlight of my Co-op experience was my participation in the visit of Prime Minister Harper and other Ministers of Canada to China in early February. It was an interesting discovery and a great learning opportunity for me to see how detailed the entire program was with the Embassy staff. It was a pleasure for me to introduce myself to the Prime Minister. This experience is a fantastic way to end my fifth Co-op work term. Not only because it helped me discover my career path, but also because of the time I spent with all the friends and connections I made in Beijing.

Westport Innovations: Accounting and Finance Student

It was really exciting to find out that my Co-op term was at Westport Innovations. The Vancouver-based company is a global leader in the technologies and engineering of natural gas engines. I was always interested in the science of alternative fuel solutions and with my Co-op position as an Accountant I am able to work in a place where I get to explore more of this technology while at the same time pursue my career in the field of accountancy.

I am responsible for a variety of tasks including filing taxes, managing corporate credit cards and accruing expenses. The diversity of tasks allowed me to use the knowledge I gained in my academic courses and also develop and enhance other important skills such as multi-tasking, time management and prioritization.

The most amazing part of working at Westport is the fact that it is a growing company and the rate at which the company is evolving is an experience in itself. I am currently in my second work term and even within this short period of time I can feel a difference in the type of work that I do.

I’m really excited to make the most of my time here after being extended another term. Although I spend three hours commuting everyday, there has never been a day when I was not excited to get to work.

Elastic Path Software, Inc: Market Researcher

Since starting my Co-op at Elastic Path Software I have been fortunate to join the company at an exciting time where it continues to evolve and grow. Technology has changed the way we interact with all forms of content and companies like Elastic Path provide commerce solutions for consumers in an increasingly connected and “digital” world.

As a Market Researcher, I am responsible for providing research, analysis and insight to identify key global players in our target markets. Research includes information from industries, companies, and individuals from some of the world’s biggest brands.

The research I am involved with is exciting and I am kept on my toes everyday by the many different moves happening in the fast-paced marketplace of e-commerce. Any “big” exciting news that can lead to a potential business opportunity is known as a “Whale Sign,” internally to the sales and marketing teams. When I’m not reviewing information I can be found “Whale Sign Hunting,” tracking down the latest and biggest news on our target accounts. This can involve anything from recent company acquisitions to relevant job postings. Whatever the case is, I am able to draw on my own conclusions from what I gather to provide recommendations that help fuel marketing and sales efforts.

From day one, I have been immersed into an amazing work culture with some unbelievable people and am looking forward to my second work term here.

Health Canada: Finance Analyst

Working at Health Canada as a Finance Analyst in their Finance and Material Management department has been a great experience because I am able to gain valuable skills and experience on the business field. The employees are all very helpful and knowledgeable which made my transition to the organization very smooth. I am responsible for auditing invoices, ensuring they follow the policies of Health Canada, and ultimately processing them for payment using SAP.

I would recommend Health Canada to anyone studying Finance or Accounting, and who would like to gain experience in auditing, analyzing data and problem-solving. As a first time Co-op student, I did not know what to expect prior to joining Health Canada, and I believe my work term has allowed me to develop the needed skills to successfully pursue a career in the Finance sector.

Canadian Tire: Business Analyst

All day and all night in Vancouver, the “behind-the-scenes” supply chain and logistics industry runs constantly. As a Business Analyst for the Vancouver Operations Division of Canadian Tire, I’ve been able to take part in facets of business that many people take for granted. How does that bike on the shelves in a Canadian Tire store in Vancouver, Toronto, or even Montreal, get there? Chances are it came from Asia, through the Port of Vancouver, and indirectly through our office. Canadian Tire’s supply chain network is massive, and the scope of the entire operation can be intimidating.
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The highlight of my Co-op experience was my participation in the visit of Prime Minister Harper and other Ministers of Canada to China in early February. It was an interesting discovery and a great learning opportunity for me to see how detailed the entire program was with aspects to security clearance, meeting schedules, and the preparation of bilateral meetings and ceremonies.

On the last day of the delegation’s visit to Beijing, Prime Minister Harper and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, took the time to have a “meet and greet” session with the Embassy staff. It was a pleasure for me to introduce myself to the Prime Minister. This experience is a fantastic way to end my fifth Co-op work term. Not only because it helped me discover my career path, but also because of the time I spent with all the friends and connections I made in Beijing.

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DID YOU KNOW

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