The Student Guide to Experiential Education
Enhance Your Skills and Experience

Experiential learning opportunities have been growing in number and scope at the University of Toronto Mississauga, and encompass many types of practical learning, or ‘learning by doing.’

Opportunities for students to earn course credit in experiential learning settings at the University of Toronto Mississauga include: Academic Internship, Community Engaged Service Learning, Research with Professors and Community Supervisors, Field Courses, and Practicum Placements.

Experiential learning provides a valuable forum for learning and academic, professional and personal growth for students; close relationships between motivated students and faculty and community supervisors; and new platforms for collaboration and access between the university and the community.
Academic Internships
- Practical experience
- 100-200 hours
- University sponsored work
- Acquire specialized and transferable skills

Community Engaged Service Learning
- Practical work with reflection
- Gain deeper understanding of civic duty
- Enrich social and personal benefits

Research & Field Studies
- Learn outside the classroom
- Participate in faculty research
- Focus research interest
- Close contact with researchers

UTM Experiential Education Office
YEAR 1

I just started going to school here, what are some things I should do to get started?

YEAR 2

I've picked my major and I have a pretty good idea on what I want to do. What's next?

YEAR 3

I need to start building experience!

YEAR 4

Your fourth year is when your experience gets put into action!

Don't worry, you're ready to get started!
You might feel a little ambushed in your first year, what with the new classes, new dynamic, and the new people everywhere. While you’re adjusting to the new environment, the Experiential Education Office will help you plan ahead for the years to come so that you are prepared and ready to gain the maximum amount of experience.

Here some things you can do to get started:

- Book an appointment to speak with the Experiential Learning Officer about the options available to students throughout their studies here at UTM.
- Attend the Get Experience Fair and browse through the Career Centre job posting board for part-time, summer, and volunteer jobs.
- Book appointment with the UTM Career Centre to work on your cover letter and resume for the ROP applications.
- Investigate ROP courses available beginning in your second year – the application process begins before the end of your first year!
- Explore UTM Experiential Education Office (EEO) and Research Opportunity Program (ROP) websites to see what we have available for you to gain experiences related to your program(s) of study.
- Submit application to second year (299Y) ROP projects.

pictures courtesy of: UTMSU, UTM RLS
So you’ve chosen your major and are now focusing in on a field. It’s all starting to come together! You might have an idea on the type of career you’d like to pursue, or you might just want to get experience and see what you like. It’s time to visit the Experiential Education Office and take the next steps toward building that experience!

Take the next steps:
- Begin preparations for the Academic Internship courses you might be interested in submitting an application to.
- Continue to build your skills and don’t forget extra-curricular and Co-Curricular Record (CCR) activities.
- Be sure to attend Career Centre events to learn about careers in your related field of study.
- Book an appointment to speak with the Experiential Learning Officer about what makes a good application and what you can expect throughout the Academic Internship process.
- Make the necessary enhancements to your cover letter and resume with the UTM Career Centre for third year (399Y) ROP projects.
- Attend the Graduate & Professional School Fair and workshops that happen throughout the year related to these.

pictures courtesy of: ICCIT Council
Third year is here and you've started to build up some experience. This year you can build up even more! The Experiential Education Office will help you to fine tune your skills and help you to find the perfect fit for your academic internship.

Continue on the right path:

- Continue to develop your cover letter and resume based on those experiences you have had to date.
- Submit application for fourth year Academic Internship courses.
- Submit application for fourth year (499Y) and some third year (399Y) ROP projects.
- If you haven't booked an appointment with the Experiential Learning Officer to discuss your application be sure you do so before submitting application.
- Continue to make contacts in your career field and attend Career Centre networking events to assist with this.
- Increase your relevant skills to help you find jobs that prepare you for working in your career field.

pictures courtesy of: ICCIT Council
FOURTH YEAR

Congratulations! You’ve worked hard and made it through! It’s almost time to venture out into the working world or to enroll in graduate school. The Experiential Education office is here to help you make those final plans!

Take the final steps towards success:

- Pull all your experiences together
- Develop an action plan for your work search or further education plans
- Have a successful Academic Internship year!