

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

Damek Pawliw

Advanced Diploma - Electrical & Computer Engineering Bridge

About

Camosun College Electrical and Computer Engineering student, Damek Pawliw, applied their academic knowledge at SEAMOR Marine Ltd - Production Department

Work Term

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

The hands-on experience in a department that works adjacent to my desired career position. I strongly believe that in technical design fields like engineering or drafting and design, it's an important experience to at least be familiar with the physical limitations of certain processes. This co-op gave me the opportunity to explore the interactions between the team that physically assembles the components that the engineering team designs, and the engineering team themselves.

2. What was your favourite part of your position?

My favourite part of my position was the PCB population where I was able to assemble the PCB's and then test my completed work using in-house test benches. It was very satisfying to complete a PCB and see it light up on the test bench and function as intended. Also, I really like the company philosophy that allowed leniency: the company tried to put me in the area I am really interested in and I felt heard.

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

This co-op provided me with valuable hands-on skills that I will be able to carry with me through the rest of my career. In small companies like SEAMOR, it is often required that engineers have intimate knowledge of the final product they are designing, and must have the necessary hands-on skills to produce appropriate prototypes. As for what I gained personally from the experience, my co-op provided me with more tools in my arsenal for working under/ with people with teaching/ learning styles that diverge from my own. It was an interesting experience to work under my supervisor and adjust my learning style to extrapolate necessary information for the projects I was assigned in new and different ways.

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

Even if the co-op you have chosen doesn't align with your field of choice, don't disregard the experiences you gain from that position. At worst, the position will make you realize this is something you don't want to pursue in your career. However, with any position, that knowledge is yours and you will apply the skills you learned at some point and it will benefit you in ways you might not be able to realize at this point in time.



Co-op Position:
Production Technician
Co-op

Company:
SEAMOR Marine Ltd -
Production Department

Relevant Skills:

- Collaboration
- Technical design
- Hands-on engineering experience

Salman Pasha

Advanced Diploma - Electrical & Computer Engineering Bridge

About

Camosun College Electrical and Computer Engineering Student, Salman Pasha, applied their academic knowledge at Maskwa High Voltage

Work Term

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

The importance of doing the job right. In school, there isn't as much pressure to make something 100% perfect but in real life, when you stamp your name on that design, it has to be perfect.

2. What was your favourite aspect of your work term?

It was connecting with my co-workers every morning - I was excited to go to work every day. It gave us a much needed mental break while still being able to get all our work done.

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

At my co-op, I made a lot of good friends who helped me during the co-op with any questions I had. It also helped me to develop important skills that will help me in the future.

4. Why did you decide to do a co-op? Did your co-op help you figure out what you want to do in the future?

I always wanted to get into utilities, and this was the perfect opportunity. It helped me realize I want to start my own company. I don't want someone to tell me how high I can grow - I want to do it myself. I want to make new things - new stuff is fun.

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

An old connection made during a networking event in Calgary reached out to me about this job. So, for any new grads or students, I highly recommend networking as that's one of the best ways to secure a position. Find out what interests you, learn about it and then do a co-op that focuses on it. Focus on your personal development - how to communicate in interviews, how to talk to people and get your message across the board.



Co-op Position:
Protection and Controls
co-op

Company:
Maskwa High Voltage

Relevant Skills:

- Learned SCADA (professional program)
- Networking
- See in action what you designed in the computer

Let's hear from more Tech students:

Chase Westlake

Program: Advanced Diploma - Electrical and Computer Engineering Bridge

Co-op Position: Electronics co-op students

Company: Canadian Coast Guard

"I wanted to gain experience in my field, and develop skills that I learned in theory. I got a fantastic opportunity to see a component of my field, develop networks, and validate lessons. Stay open minded, and constantly seek feedback."



Dylan Barkowsky

Program: Diploma - Information & Computer Systems Technology

Co-op Position: Full Stack Project Analyst Co-op

Company: Ministry of Citizens' Services

"The best part was having access to industry professionals who could offer support and learning opportunities that classes don't necessarily provide."



Justin Stee

Program: Diploma - Interactive Media Developer Technology

Co-op Position: Data management, Website Design, & Drafting Summer Co-op

Company: Site Power Engineering Consultants

"I decided to do a co-op because I wanted to apply my learning from first year, make some money to help with my finances, and also, to dip my toes in the workplace to help guide my future career decisions."



Tyler Hong

Program: Diploma - Electronics & Computer Engineering Technology in Renewable Energy

Co-op Position: Project Designer

Company: Encepta Corp.

"I decided to do a co-op to gain real-world experience and get "my foot in the door" for a company/industry."

