

Congratulations Graduates



From left: Matthew Donato, BBA, Syahrul Jamaludin, BSc HNU, Rae Fox, BBA, Morgan Hamilton, BSc HNU, and Robert Murray, BBA.

This year six co-op students successfully completed their degrees with co-op education. Matthew Donato, BBA Adv. Major in Entrepreneurship (Co-op) completed 12 months of work experience; 4 months at Thorncrest Foodland in Toronto, ON, and 8 months with as a Sales Intern with The Magic Touch in Bedfordshire, England. Matthew will be continuing with the Magic Touch as a new graduate. Syahrul Jamaludin, BSc in Human Nutrition (Co-op) completed 12 months of work experience; 4 months as the Gettin' Healthy Amherst Community Food Coordinator for the Town of Amherst and 8 months as a Marketing Communications and Events Coordinator for the StFX Extension Innovation and Enterprise Centre. Syahrul will be continuing his studies this fall. Rae Fox, BBA Adv. Major Marketing (Co-op), completed 24 months of work experience; 4 months with MEG Energy as a Permitting Intern, 4 months with RBR as a Marketing Intern, 4 months with the Calgary Stampede as a Marketing

Assistant Coordinator, and 12 months with Husky Energy as an Asphalt Marketing Student. Rae is continuing with Husky as a new graduate. Morgan Hamilton, BSc in Human Nutrition completed 16 months of work experience; 4 months with The Town of Oxford as the Getting' Healthy Amherst Food Coordinator, 4 months with Sodexo as a Marketing Intern, 4 months with Health Canada, as a Research Intern, and 4 months with the Antigonish Art Fair as the Marketing, Events, & Sponsorship Coordinator. Morgan is continuing with Sodexo as a new graduate. Lastly, Robert Murray, BBA Major Management & Leadership (Co-op), completed 12 months of work experience; 4 months with Ledcor Group as a Field Sales Representative, 4 months with Sodexo as a Marketing Intern, and 4 months with J.D. Irving as a Human Resources Intern. Robert has accepted a position with the Federal government as a new graduate.

Congratulations graduates as you embark on your next adventure!

HIGHLIGHTS

Contributing to
Community

The Grant
Thornton
Experience

International
Student Success
in Co-op

Celebrating
Success

National Co-op
Week

Connect @ X

Employer
Spotlight—BDO

Contributing to Community



Hire Me Halifax Pitch Competition Finalist

Isaac Bezanson, second year BBA Co-op student, was one of the finalists selected to attend a networking and pitch competition in Halifax. This event was hosted by the Halifax Partnership. The event helps to bridge the gap between young talent and employers in Halifax.

Lunch & Learn: Attaching Youth of African Descent to Careers in NS

Jennie MacDonald, Co-op Education Coordinator & Kelsey Jones, Coordinator, African Descent Affairs participated in a conversation about how post-secondary schools, non-profits, and government can work together to increase participation of African Nova Scotian youth in the workforce.



Shubie Classic Fun Run

Tristan Dearden (pictured far left), third year BBA Co-op student completed his second work term this winter with Grant Thornton in Halifax. During his work term, Tristan participated in the 3rd Annual Shubie Classic 5k Fun Run. The run is a fundraiser to create awareness about mental health. The donations received support the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia.

Now to Next—Co-op Education Summit

Isaac Bezanson, BBA Co-op student (pictured left) and Co-op Coordinator Jennie MacDonald attended the second Now to Next Co-op Education Summit. The summit was hosted in Halifax in partnership with Acadia, Cape Breton University, Dalhousie, Mount Saint Vincent, Nova Scotia Community College, & Saint Mary's University. Students were able to attend the conference free of charge where they could network with employers and attend professional development sessions.



StFX Co-op Students Making their Mark at Grant Thornton

This winter, four co-op students completed their work terms with Grant Thornton in various locations across the province, including Antigonish, New Glasgow, and Halifax. The co-op students attended orientation in Halifax, where they learned more about Grant Thornton, met other co-op students, and participated in training sessions for various software programs.

During their work terms, students had the opportunity to work on corporate tax files, year ends, and participated in an onsite audit. Students were very impressed with their experience at Grant Thornton and expressed how valuable it was to their long-term goal of pursuing their CPA.

At Grant Thornton each student is provided the opportunity to request feedback on files from multiple experienced employees, through an online system. The

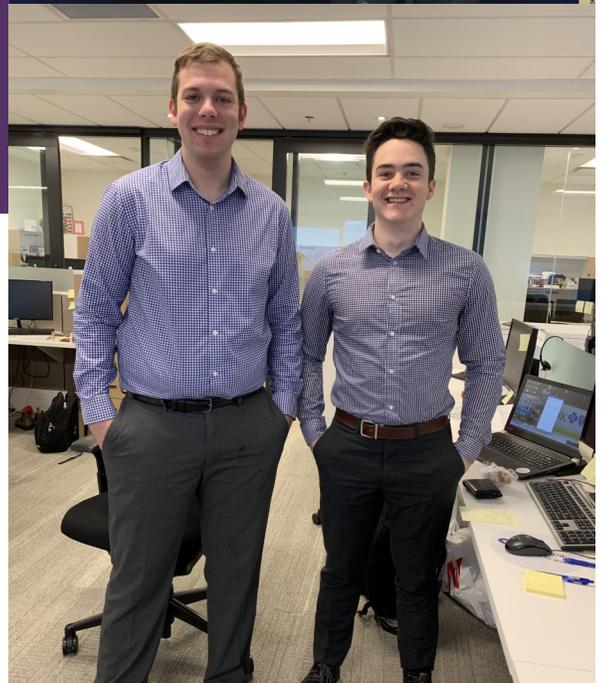
feedback received has been a critical component to each student's learning and progress throughout their work terms and has helped students strengthen their knowledge of accounting

"Throughout this work term, I've been able to work on many different files. I've looked at hundreds of financial statements and have been able to analyze each one of them. I will be able to use the skills I have gained from this work term in the future."

-Muhammad Bhatda

practices and procedures, as well as build confidence in their field.

Two students have continued with Grant Thornton for the summer term.



International Biology Student Making her Mark



Josie-Ann LeBlanc, third year BSc Biology Co-op Student

Josie-Ann LeBlanc, third year BSc Biology Co-op student completed 12 months of work with three separate employers. During her first work-term, Josie-Ann worked for Transport Canada, as a Research Intern for the Intermodal Surface Security and Emergency Preparedness branch. During this work term, Josie-Ann conducted research and developed reports and presentations, making recommendations for the safety and security of dangerous goods. Josie-Ann's background in biology and chemistry was an asset in this position.

For her second work term, Josie worked as a n Intern for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. During this work term, Josie participated in research projects with

blueberries, apples, and grapes. The projects required a combination of lab and field work. Through this experience, Josie-Ann was able to develop and enhance her lab skills, taking measurements and recording data, which required a high attention to detail. Josie also learned about different lab techniques, such as, solid phase micro extraction.

For her last work term, Josie, worked as a Lab Technician for Mara Renewables. During this work term, Josie helped with a research project on micro - organisms, testing and analyzing data and presenting findings. Through this experience, Josie learned and improved many laboratory techniques, as well, as broadened her knowledge about aspects of the field. Josie was quickly given the responsibility to work on her projects independently, providing updates and alerts as needed to her supervisor.

"This Co-op work term was a phenomenal experience. I had the chance to apply some of what I learned in botany and organic chemistry. I gained many new scientific and laboratory techniques from this job and was challenged to learn new things each day!"

- Josie-Ann LeBlanc

As Josie heads into her last year of study, I am excited to see where her experience takes her.





Co-op Awards

From left: Morgan Hamilton, BSc HNU Co-op & Syahrul Jamaludin, BSc HNU Co-op

This year the Co-op Education Office introduced the *Co-op Education Employer Engagement Award*. This new award recognizes companies who have provided exceptional Co-op work term experiences to our co-op students within the academic year.

Grant Thornton Nova Scotia was the recipient of the Co-op Education Employer Engagement Award for their continued support of our program and for hiring 5 StFX students this past year.

This year's recipients for the following awards include:

- *Student's Choice for Outstanding Co-op Supervisor Award*, awarded to Peter Murray, Partner at Grant Thornton in New Glasgow.
- *Co-operative Education Student Achievement Award*, awarded to Syahrul Jamaludin, BSc in Human Nutrition (Co-op).

- *Employers Choice Award for Excellence in Co-operative Education*, awarded to Morgan Hamilton, BSc in Human Nutrition Co-op.

The Co-op Education Office hosted the second annual awards reception for faculty, staff, and students to honour the recipients for their contributions and their nominees. A special thank you to our judges, for taking the time to review our nomination packages and to employers and students who took the time to nominate candidates.



From left: Alisha Mombourquette & Peter Murray, Grant Thornton

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If it was easy,
everyone
would do it.
It's hard work
that drives
success.

ENHANCING
YOUR ACADEMIC
EXPERIENCE
THROUGH CO-OP EDUCATION



From left: Brittany LaPointe, BSc CSCI, Paul MacLellan, BBA, & Robert Murray, BBA—Transition to Success Event

Celebrating National Co-op Week

This year the Co-op Education Department hosted its first annual Co-op Education Week to celebrate CEWIL's National Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Week. During the week the Co-op Department hosted an open house, Transition to Success-Co-op Student Panel Discussion, an employer information session, and a LinkedIn workshop for the campus community.

Students who participated learned more about the benefits of co-operative education from students and employers and were able to start building their networks through their new LinkedIn profiles.

The Co-op Department plans to expand its programming to Celebrate National Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Week next year. *Stayed tuned for events happening in March 2020!*

For more information on CEWIL's National Co-op and WIL Week visit the website, <https://www.cewilcanada.ca/co-op-wil-week.html>

Winter Work Term

STATISTICS

- ◆ 100% employed for winter
- ◆ 11 students on work term

EMPLOYERS

- ◆ KPMG
- ◆ Grant Thornton
- ◆ Mara Renewables
- ◆ Sobeys
- ◆ RBC
- ◆ BDO
- ◆ StFX IT Department

POSITIONS

- ◆ Accounting Intern
- ◆ Lab Technician
- ◆ Tax Student
- ◆ Pricing Analytics Co-op
- ◆ Banking Advisor
- ◆ Tax Intern
- ◆ Web Analyst

GRADUATES EMPLOYED

- ◆ 5/6



Connect @X



Back right: Dominic Young, BBA Co-op, Syahrul Jamaludin, BSc HNU Co-op, Harshith Reddy, BBA Co-op, Isaac, Bezanson, BBA Co-op, Robert Sinclair, BBA Co-op, Vincent Mavhiri, BBA Co-op, Muhammad Bhatda, BBA Co-op, Sarah Hoerig, BBA Co-op. **Front Right:** Jane Goguen, BBA Co-op, Kelsey Bowman, BBA Co-op, Robert Murray, BBA Co-op, Morgan Hamilton, BBA Co-op, & Mairi McKinnon, BBA Co-op

Kelsey Bowman, President of the StFX Extension Student Society and BBA Co-op student organized the first annual Connect @X event, in partnership with the StFX Extension Innovation and Enterprise Centre, Co-op Education, the StFX Student Career Centre, Eastern Strait Regional Network, and ISANS. Kelsey began planning the event in August, when she identified a need for more networking opportunities on campus.

The event offered StFX students an exciting opportunity to network with local, provincial, and national employers. Students from a variety of faculties attended the event, including a number of co-op students. The event consisted of a pre-dinner reception for students to mix and mingle with various employers, a dinner, and a speed networking session. Hannah Chisholm, creator of Eggcitables, a plant based egg alternative, delivered a motivating key

note, referring to the importance of networking and making connections in the development of her own business.

Students who attended were entered into a draw to win an X-ring. Margaret Schwartz with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education, the Ultimate X-Ring sponsor, drew the name and awarded Matthew McGlashen, BBA student, his prize. The Co-op Office is looking forward to partnering with Kelsey again next year on this event!





About the Firm

BDO is a professional services firm built on a foundation of positive relationships with our people and our clients. We provide assurance, accounting, tax, and advisory services to over 50,000 clients across the country. Each day, we rely on our 3,600 professionals to provide exceptional service, and help our clients by providing advice and insight they can trust. In turn, we offer an environment that builds a people-first culture with a high priority on personal and professional growth.



Mission

People helping people achieve their dreams.

Our mission defines who we are and why we exist. It's our core purpose. We play a big role in helping our clients and people achieve their dreams. Our mission keeps us grounded and humble on our impact on people's lives every day.

Our Vision

To be the best professional services firm in the mid-market. By investing deeply in relationships, we do our best to help our employees, clients, and communities thrive.

Our Values

- Integrity
- Respect
- Collaboration

Values have always been core to BDO, but by making them explicit they become more than words on a page. They guide the way we behave and ultimately drive our culture.





Co-op/Internship Opportunities

As a Co-op Student or Intern, you can expect to grow your skills through exceptional training, exciting work assignments with diverse clients, relationship building with partners and staff, and obtaining valued mentorship from industry experts. We offer co-op and internship opportunities in Assurance & Accounting, Tax and Consulting.

New Graduate Opportunities

As a new graduate, you have the opportunity to start your career as a Junior Accountant in Assurance & Accounting or Tax. As a Junior Staff Accountant in A&A or Tax, you will gain unparalleled knowledge working on an entire file from start to finish. This unique experience will provide you with outstanding preparation for your professional exams, as well as exposure to a range of service lines. Our leaders offer day-to-day technical guidance and ongoing feedback so you receive an accurate assessment of your progress.

New graduates also have the opportunity to launch their career in one of our many Advisory Service lines as a Consultant. Should you choose this career path, you will work with clients to address a variety of business issues and opportunities, ranging from profitability pressures, changing regulations and volatile economies to mergers and acquisitions and technology solutions.

Why work with us?

- Develop professional skills
- Connect with clients
- Build relationships
- Work on a variety of projects
- Opportunity for future growth

We support you for what matters to YOU.

Interested in being part of the BDO family?

These are the qualities we look for:

- Communication and interpersonal skills
- The ability to build lasting relationships
- Inquisitive
- Focused
- Fit with the firm
- The ability to relate to, interact and cooperate with others

At BDO, we focus on choosing the right people for the right projects, whether working with our clients or with colleagues. When you apply for a position at BDO, we do not just review your grades and technical skills. We invest in the best and brightest people who value honesty and trust, have an inspiring track record of achievement in and outside of their work, and are committed to working as a team to deliver exceptional client service.

Contact:

Kelly Daoust,
Campus Recruitment Specialist

KDaoust@bdo.ca | <https://www.bdo.ca/en-ca/careers/students/>





Student Testimonials

Having the opportunity to work for BDO as an accounting student has been a great experience for my overall progression. As a student, many firms are available for consideration; however, making the right choice is crucial. In making that decision, you should prioritize what is most important to you in terms of the working environment, company culture and job responsibilities you most admire. Some of the attributes, which attracted me to BDO include, their size and success, their geographic diversity, their wide range of clientele, and that they are accepting and stride for bilingualism. After three years of working for BDO, I can honestly say that I am very proud in my decision and would recommend the same path for individuals interested in this field of work. On a day-to-day basis, I work closely with a very dynamic team that respects you as an individual. With their consistent assistance, coaching and encouragement, they have helped me develop into the accountant I am today. As your mentor, BDO takes their role very seriously. They are adamant about investing in your future and personal growth as an accountant. At BDO, I have had the chance to work with various types of clients, as well as, gained experience in the different aspects of accounting work and as a result, this has allowed me to progress in to a well-rounded employee. With the aid of BDO's mentoring and support, I feel optimistic about encountering future challenges and obstacles.

Michelle

"I was fortunate enough to do two co-op terms and a stint of part-time at BDO while in school, which ultimately led to a full-time position after school. Working at BDO has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. By having a more "hands-on" approach to work, where as a Junior I'm able to be client-facing and involved in all phases of a project, has led to an invaluable experience and allowed me explore avenues that may have otherwise not been possible. I have been able to leverage what I have learned in the classroom to real-life situations, allowing me to better perform my job. And although the work is rewarding, it is the people that make the difference. My colleagues have become friends and make going to work all that more enjoyable. I have taken advantage of other opportunities within the company as well, including joining the Health and Safety Committee, helping plan our Holiday Party, and organizing out-of-office events! At BDO employees are recognized for their hard-work and dedication and they encourage professional growth. As such, it has been such a great experience starting my career here and I can't see where the future takes me at BDO!"

Robyn

I began my career with BDO as a summer co-op student with limited experience in the Accounting industry. During my summer with BDO, I was not only introduced to the world of public accounting but also to the inspiring and supportive community that BDO has to offer. Although I went into the summer with little real world accounting experience, the culture and the people found within the BDO organization were extremely helpful and supportive. This culture BDO and its employees provides, allowed me to gain a vast array of knowledge and skills to help me continue on my career path. It is a great feeling when you are a part of a community of people that want to see you succeed and are constantly encouraging you to ask questions and get the help you need to achieve that desired success. At the end of my summer term with BDO, I was fortunate enough to receive a full-time offer upon graduation, and I could not be more excited to continue my career path with BDO. I implore anyone to seize an opportunity to join a firm that makes you feel proud of the work you are doing and one with an environment that fosters the growth of its employees, such as BDO.

Adam



Hire a Co-op Student!

StFX co-op students are bright, innovative, and eager for professional experience. Year round, our office will work with you to help your organization benefit from a StFX student. Work terms start in May, September, or January of each year.

Have questions?

Contact us today!



**Co-op
Experience**
Discover | Grow | Achieve

Co-operative Education Program
St. Francis Xavier University



www.sites.stfx.ca/co-op

Tel: 902-867-5359

A special thank you to all of the students and employers who submitted stories for the newsletter.

Please send us your stories for our next issue in August.
