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# Spotlight on the Université de Moncton’s Co-operative Education Office (CEO)

## Life experience for students

The Co-operative Education Office (CEO) at the Université de Moncton gives students a chance to apply what they have learned in class during their co-op work terms, as well as to increase their employability through these work experiences and preparatory classroom learning.

The CEO offers a number of services to students enrolled in a co-op program at any of the Université’s campuses. CEO staff members guide, advise and train students during their postsecondary studies by means of varied programs and sessions, and also match them with employers. This allows students to put what they have learned into practice and better prepares them for the job market.

“We offer students personalized service to better equip them both for their university studies and for their career,” explained Claude Lavoie, Director of the CEO and trained guidance counsellor. “For example, we may suggest that students take English courses to improve their fluency or offer help with revising a CV or preparing for an interview.”

Teaching methods have changed and co-operative education uses a model of alternating periods of work and study during which participants acquire skills and a better understanding of the job market, explore career opportunities and build connections with possible future employers regionally, provincially, nationally or even internationally. None of this would be as simple with traditional instructional methods.

The statistics speak for themselves. According to the CEO’s annual survey of co-op students, between 95% and 100% of respondents say that they have had a positive co-op experience. Again, from 95% to 100% of respondents say that they are satisfied with their choice of the co-op program as it relates to their personal and professional development. It’s definitely an advantage for students to choose the co-op program, even though some of them don’t realize it when they are starting university.

“A paid co-op work term consists of 12 to 16 consecutive weeks of full-time work,” said Sylvie Cormier, Co-op Coordinator – Student Development. “Often it’s only after the program is over that participants realize what they’ve accomplished and what opportunities they’ve had by being part of the co-op program.”

Most participants have to undertake a total of three work terms. Only the engineering program requires four work terms.

“Our greatest satisfaction comes from watching our students flourish and make their dreams come true,” added Annette Cormier, Administrative Secretary.

The CEO was formed in 1996. At that time, only three programs offered co-op work terms: nutrition, engineering and MBA. Now 19 programs allow co-op work terms, including accounting, finance, marketing, management, biochemistry, biology, applied computer science, translation, engineering, etc.

“Employers are key partners in this educational



Co-operative Education Office Team (from left to right) : Claude Lavoie, director; Parise Deschênes, secretary; Sylvie Cormier, Coop program coordinator - Student development; Conrad Melanson, Coop program coordinator - Employer development; Manon Cormier-Viel, Coop program coordinator - Employer development; and Annette Cormier - executive secretary.

process. Thanks to their participation students receive training in their field before they finish university,” noted Conrad Melanson, Co-op Coordinator – Employer Development. “Businesses also benefit from this system because students bring their enthusiasm, new ideas and even fresh perspectives.”

In December 2018, the number of students admitted to

the co-op program since the CEO was created passed the 3000 mark.

**To learn more about the opportunities offered by the co-op program, please visit the CEO’s webpage.**

**\*For your information, the webpage is found at <https://www.umoncton.ca/coop/>**



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## À NOS PARTENAIRES COOP...

L’Université de Moncton et son Bureau de l’enseignement coopératif vous remercient de votre soutien et de votre précieuse coopération.

C’est une participation fort appréciée qui fait des stages coop un franc succès pour les étudiantes et étudiants.

## TO OUR CO-OP PARTNERS...

The Université de Moncton and its Co-operative Education Office thank you for your support and invaluable co-operation.

Your involvement is greatly appreciated and is what makes the Co-op work terms a true success for students.

