ARTS CO-OP UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD 2020

Thanks to private donations to the Arts Co-op Program, we are able to offer an award for the Arts Co-op Student of the Year. The award is worth $1000, and will be noted on the recipient’s UBC transcript. This award is for work terms completed during Winter 2020 (Jan-Apr 2020), Summer 2020 (May-Aug 2020), or Fall 2020 (Sep-Dec 2020).

The annual award recognizes outstanding achievement in all aspects of the Arts Co-op student’s performance, including academic achievement, job achievement/employer evaluation, personal letter, contribution to co-operative education, and contribution to extra-curricular activities. The award will be given by the Associate Dean of Arts, Students, on the advice of the Arts Co-op Advisory Committee. In addition, the Arts Co-op Student of the Year Award recipient may be nominated on behalf of UBC Co-op for the CEWIL (Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning) and/or ACE/WIL (Association of Cooperative Education and Work-Integrated Learning, BC & Yukon) Student of the Year Awards (national/provincial competitions).

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD

The Arts Co-op Student of the Year Award Committee uses the criteria below to evaluate candidates. Nominees are scored on a scale of 100 points; the value of each criterion is indicated in brackets. The committee is seeking well-rounded candidates with accomplishments in:

Job Achievement / Employer evaluation: Form & Letter (30 points):
• Student nominees should select one co-op employer representative. Alternately, the employer may choose to nominate their co-op student for the award (note: the employer needs to inform the student of the nomination). In either case, the representative should be an employer the student worked for during W20/S20/F20.
• The employer representative is to complete the Undergraduate Student of the Year Award Employer Nomination Form, which is available for download here.
• In addition, the employer completes a recommendation letter, addressing the following points:
  o What were the student’s duties/responsibilities?
  o What outstanding work achievements/accomplishments/impacts made this student an exemplary co-op student (cost savings, process/quality improvements, design/development innovations, improved customer service, significant research or other initiatives etc.)?
  o How was the student’s performance in comparison to your expectations? Or in comparison to other co-op students you have worked with? Does it make you want to hire other co-op students in the future?
  o How did this student or co-op students in general, benefit the department/company?
  o Would you hire this student again, particularly after graduation, if there was an opportunity available?
  o What else would you like us to know about the student’s character/personality/values, and/or their performance?
• Letter should be signed, on company letterhead, 2-pages max., 1 inch margins, 10 point font
• Student submits a signed Employer Nomination form and a recommendation letter.

Student’s Personal Letter (15 points):
• One personal letter, in the following format:
  o 2-pages max/single-sided
  o single-spaced, 1-inch margins, 10 point font (min.)
  o standard business letter format, with signature
  o please indicate your GPA in your letter OR at the start of your resume
  o please indicate which specific work term your nomination is for (i.e. W20/S20/F20)
Your letter should describe how co-operative education has enhanced:
  o Your career and personal development (For example, did your work term impact your choices about future co-op terms? Jobs after graduation? Did it impact your interest in getting involved further with the co-op program, or promoting co-op to others?)
  o Your academic experience (For example, did your studies relate to your work? Did co-op impact your choices about your degree program or course selections? Your academic accomplishments when you returned to school from a work term?)

Please use specific examples where possible.
Comments need to be limited to experiences from the specific work terms for this award – W20/S20/F20.

Resume (10 points):
  • Up-to-date, with co-op work terms indicated.
  • Please indicate your cumulative GPA for your current degree at the beginning of the “Highlights of Qualifications” section of your resume.
  • Include other employment, education/academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, contribution to co-op education activities, particularly from 2020. Include accomplishment statements where possible.

Academic Achievement (15 points):
  • Cumulative average; student maintains or exceeds the minimum 75% GPA
    o If your GPA is below the minimum 75%, please explain.
    o NOTE: If your GPA is between 72-75% we will take your reasoning and explanation into account when evaluating your nomination package. However, if your GPA is below 72% we recommend you not apply, as this is a UBC Senate GPA award requirement, and your nomination would be disqualified. Consider applying the following year if you meet the minimum requirement.
  • Recipient of scholarships, awards, or bursaries related to current degree program and within the academic year of the nomination (please indicate any achievements on your resume and in the online nomination form):
    o Provide a brief description of the purpose and scope of the award including monetary value, if any (i.e. for achievement in?)

Contribution to Co-op Education (15 points):
On your resume, please indicate your volunteer contributions to the Arts Co-op Program and/or co-operative education generally during the specific work terms for this award – W20/S20/F20. Examples could include:
  • Active in the Arts Co-op Students’ Association as an executive member, team member, or volunteer.
  • Acted as an ambassador by engaging in public presentations for the Program during student recruitment information sessions or other co-op office organized events.
  • Assisted with presentations, networking, facilitation of sessions, or other activities during co-op pre-employment conferences.
  • Describe your level of involvement / duties involved / dates.
  • If you are a Mentor (through the ACSA Mentorship Program), be sure to indicate involvement dates (i.e. already mentoring a mentee or starting in 2021).

Contribution to Extra-curricular Activities at School and/or in the Community (10 points):
On your resume, please indicate your volunteer extra-curricular activities at UBC or in the community during the specific terms for this award – W20/S20/F20:
  • Describe involvement / duties involved / dates.
Evaluator Assessment (5 points):
- Evaluator’s assessment and recognition of intangible qualities of nominee.
- This is the section where points will be awarded for relevant work samples; see details below in “Nomination Package”.

Nomination Process
Either the co-op student or the student’s employer may initiate this process. In either case, the student is responsible for gathering and submitting the documents required for this nomination.

Evaluation Process
A sub-committee of the Arts Co-op Advisory Committee will meet in early to mid-December to review all nomination submissions and decide on the year’s recipient.

The sub-committee may be composed of Arts Co-op employers, alumni and co-op staff. Winners will be announced in January, and will be featured in the UBC Arts Co-op newsletters, website, and social media channels, as well as UBC Faculty of Arts or UBC-wide related communication materials. The award winner could potentially be nominated for one or both of the CEWIL & ACE Co-op Student of the Year Awards in late January.

Nomination Package Submission Checklist
Complete the online nomination form: https://arco.air.arts.ubc.ca/undergraduate-soty/
- Once you submit your online form, responses cannot be revised.
- Submit the nomination form including nomination package online by 4:00 pm on Mon, Nov 23, 2020.

Your nomination package must include the following items, sent in 1 PDF file, filename “Surname, First Name.pdf” (eg. Lee, Morgan.pdf) in the following order:

1. Student’s personal letter with signature
2. Employer Recommendation Letter written on the organization’s letterhead, signed by the Co-op employer
3. Employer Undergraduate Student of the Year Award Employer Nomination Form
4. Student’s updated resume (2 pages max.)
5. Samples: Relevant work/volunteer/extra-curricular/academic samples during W20/S20/F20:
   - Include a table of contents for the samples indicating the title of the piece, context, and why you’ve included it.
   - Limit of 2-4 samples max., with each sample no longer than 2 pages.
   - You may include any items you feel will give the selection committee a better idea of who you are as a person or highlight skills you’ve developed:
     - work created during 2020 co-op work term(s) (check with your employer for confidentiality aspects)
     - sections of a report, social media posts, newspaper or magazine articles, website content
     - sections of academic or published work
     - other
   
   Note: Do not include awards certificates and/or citations: these should be listed in your résumé.

Nomination Deadline
- The deadline for the 2020 nomination year is Mon, Nov 23, 2020 @ 4:00 pm, submitted online.
- Note: Only complete packages that meet the guidelines will be forwarded to the selection committee.