

# ARTS CO-OP PROGRAM

2017/2018 YEAR END REPORT



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



One core measure of any university is its direct impact on its local and global communities. In the 8 years that I've been privileged to serve as the Dean of Arts, I have been continuously impressed by how our talented students have engaged with their communities to make contributions big and small for the benefit of individuals and society at large. Our Co-op program is one of the central ways that our students work in the community, while also building transformative skills and experiences on their paths to being "life ready."

I have heard time and time again from our graduating students and alumni that their co-op experiences were perhaps the single most important component of their UBC education. Not surprisingly, this still holds true, as the student and alumni profiles in these pages reflect; each profile charts an individual journey, but the themes of career discovery, job readiness, professional and personal growth, and life enrichment are common threads throughout the stories.

Since I joined the Faculty of Arts, the Arts Co-op Program has more than doubled the number of work terms students complete each year, from 238 in 2009/10 to 538 in 2017/18. Arts Co-op has also grown to now include our Faculty's newest degree programs in Public Policy and Global Affairs, Media Studies, and International Economics, as well as the English and History PhD Programs. Our investment in the Co-op Program demonstrates the value we place on high-impact experiential learning and advances our goal to provide all students with access to enriched educational experiences during the course of their Arts degrees.

I want to also acknowledge the critical role of our partners who provide innumerable access opportunities for our students. Each year, hundreds of organizations employ our students in non-profit, government, and private sector work places in Canada and around the world. This year alone, employers combined to invest over \$4.6 million in UBC Arts Co-op students' salaries. Thank you for your profound commitment to our students.

**Gage Averill**  
Dean, Faculty of Arts



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our Program has had another busy and successful year, with a record number of undergraduate and graduate Arts students completing co-op terms with a wide range of employers across Canada and around the world. I encourage you to take a few minutes to read the student and alumni profiles on pages 10-15 to learn how workplace learning has enriched the educational experiences of a diversity of Arts students. As you'll see, Arts Co-op graduates have gone on to remarkable careers including with Google Japan and ExperiencePoint in Toronto, crediting their early experiences in the Arts Co-op Program for helping them launch their careers.

To help us see ways to further strengthen our model, the Faculty organized an External Review of our Program in Summer 2017. The Committee—composed of leaders from other Canadian Co-op Programs and a co-op employer—recognized the strengths and exceptional quality of our Co-op Program in Arts, concluding: “We commend the innovation and leadership that Arts Co-op has demonstrated....UBC is a leader in co-operative education and the Arts Co-op Program is a strong contributor to this success.”

The Review also suggested several things to help enhance our Program, including: additional staff for employer outreach and student advising, improved use of systems to make it easier for employers to recruit from us, and adjustments to our intake process and student advising systems to make the Program more scalable. Over the past several months, our team has focused on enacting recommendations from the Review, and we feel we are better prepared to meet the interests of Arts students and employers in the years ahead.

The Faculty's investment in the Arts Co-op Program is positioning Arts to support goals in UBC's new Strategic Plan, “Shaping UBC's Next Century,” related to growing co-operative and work integrated learning opportunities. Our Program looks forward to continuing to play a significant role in helping UBC achieve its goals of enriched student experiences for all of our students.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions anytime at [julie.walchli@ubc.ca](mailto:julie.walchli@ubc.ca) or 604.827.5194.

**Julie Walchli**

Director, Faculty of Arts Co-operative Education Program





# ARTS CO-OP PROGRAM

## MISSION STATEMENT

The UBC Arts Co-op Program offers students enriched educational experiences for personal and professional growth by working with diverse community partners and sectors to provide transformative workplace learning.

The UBC Arts Co-op Program aims to:

- Provide students with the support and opportunities for career exploration, and diversification of experience and skill sets
- Develop skilled professionals who can strengthen the workforce in new and innovative ways
- Enable students to be engaged citizens who contribute positively to a global society
- Build student capacity for leadership
- Foster student and alumni connections to UBC and the local and international communities

## OUR ROOTS

The UBC Arts Co-op Program started as a pilot program in 1997 for students in the Department of English. As a result of our growth and success, the program is thriving and includes students across all undergraduate disciplines within Arts (40+ different undergraduate majors in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Creative and Performing Arts) and graduate programs in the UBC iSchool (Library, Archival and Information Studies), Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs, and English and History PhD.

We are now the third largest co-op program at UBC with over 646 active students in the program.

## FACTS & FIGURES

In 2017/18, students in our program secured a total of 528 work terms, which breaks down to 445 undergraduate, 65 iSchool, 14 MPPGA, and 4 PhD. This marks our program's most successful year in terms of number of work terms and a 1% increase over last year's figures.

### EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR & REGION

The public sector remained the largest employer of Arts Co-op students in 2017/18, making up 52% of work terms, down 1% from last year. The non-profit sector had 25% of work terms (an increase of 6% from last year), with the remaining 23% in the private sector (a decrease of 4% from last year).

In 2017/18, 75% of work terms were in the Lower Mainland area, 3% on Vancouver Island, 4% in other BC locations, 11% in other Canadian provinces and territories, and 7% in foreign countries.

### EDUCATING GLOBAL CITIZENS: INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENTS

This year 37 students completed co-op terms in China, France, Hong Kong, India, Peru, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, and the United States.

Since the Program's inception in 2000, Arts Co-op students have worked in 40 different countries.

We know that living and working abroad is one of the most powerful educational experiences students can have, and we want to ensure all students who are interested in international work terms have access to challenging opportunities.

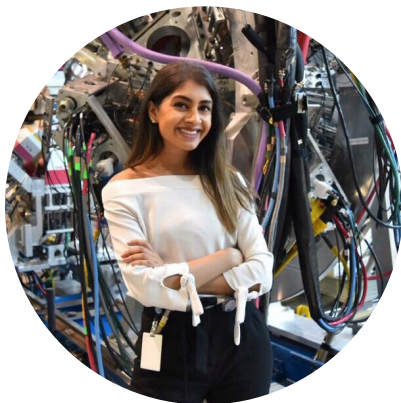
### WORK TERM HISTORY

Year	OVERALL				INTERNATIONAL	
	UG*	G**	PhD	Total	Work Terms	% of Total
99/00	112	-	-	112	10	9%
00/01	119	-	-	119	10	8%
01/02	144	-	-	144	10	7%
02/03	134	15	-	149	15	10%
03/04	189	25	-	214	19	9%
04/05	182	20	-	202	19	9%
05/06	212	28	-	240	35	15%
06/07	225	46	-	271	27	10%
07/08	264	54	-	318	43	14%
08/09	223	39	-	262	29	11%
09/10	201	37	-	238	16	7%
10/11	215	61	-	276	23	8%
11/12	265	64	-	329	29	9%
12/13	304	71	-	375	36	10%
13/14	345	69	1	415	46	11%
14/15	369	77	1	447	41	9%
15/16	401	81	3	485	52	11%
16/17	448	77	0	525	44	8%
17/18	445	79	4	528	37	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,797</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5,649</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>10%</b>

\*UG - Undergraduate  
\*\*G - Graduate



# ARTS CO-OP AT WORK



Ashwini helped implement & execute communication strategies & digital campaigns during her time as a Communications Assistant, all in an effort to share the @TRIUMFLab story. #educated2employed



At @NUVomag, Brenna was responsible for many administrative duties in the daily operations of the print & online magazine company. She refined her customer service & attention to detail skills, while also practicing her technical skills of Excel & mail merge #educated2employed



Kaylin coordinates adaptive kayaking & paddle boarding for people w/ disabilities for her co-op term w/ @DisabilityFdn. In her position, she has improved her interpersonal skills when interacting with people with disabilities #educated2employed



@ubcVSE student, Sara Neubauer, is now considering a career in policy work given her co-op term as a Student Transportation Planner in Policy Development @ TransLink, where she's been involved in a Transit Fair Review and Regional Transportation Strategy. #educated2employed



@UBCiSchool MASLIS student Rachel McRory works at @UVicLib. She is in charge of library services, archiving & processing the records of the Tsilhqot'in decision court case. She is pictured here in front of Susan Point's Good Luck Double Salmon spindle whorl #educated2employed

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## 2017 UBC ARTS CO-OP STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

The Arts Co-op Program recognized each of the three winners for outstanding achievement in all aspects of student performance, including academics, the workplace, and professional and/or community involvement with a monetary award recorded on the student's transcript.



### **iSCHOOL MLIS CO-OP STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

**Kristina McGuirk, Master of Library and Information Studies**

Work term: Student Librarian, BGC Engineering



### **iSCHOOL MAS CO-OP STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

**Jennette Chalcraft, Dual Master of Archival Studies/Master of Library and Information Studies**

Work term: Student Records Management Assistant, Environment and Climate Change Canada



### **UNDERGRADUATE ARTS CO-OP STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

**Avril Espinosa-Malpica, Bachelor of Arts, Combined Major in Economics and Political Science**

Work term: Trade Commissioner Assistant, Global Affairs Canada

## STUDENT INTAKE & SELECTION

During our annual intake in Fall 2017, we received 440 applications from undergraduate students and admitted 231. For iSchool, we received 58 applications and admitted 57. For MPPGA, we received 35 applications and admitted 29. For the PhD program, we received and admitted 1.

## HIGH CALIBRE STUDENTS

Potential undergraduate Arts Co-op students go through a rigorous and competitive application process, as we strive to admit outstanding students who will meet the needs of our employers.

We assess students' suitability for the Program by reviewing their academic achievements, previous work and volunteer experiences, interpersonal skills, writing abilities, and career motivation. After reviewing applications, we invite shortlisted students to complete an independent writing assignment. Following this, the strongest students participate in group interviews, where they are asked both behavioural and standard interview questions.

We invest in this rigorous selection process to ensure that we consistently deliver the highest calibre students to our employers.

## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

The Arts Co-op Students' Association (ACSA) strives to create a community for students and alumni to connect with their peers, and to share their co-op experiences and career aspirations. As the first co-op student association at UBC, ACSA organizes events to enhance students' professional skills and provides them with an opportunity to get to know others in the program so they can learn from one another, have fun, and stay connected.

ACSA's 7 teams are led by students and elected by Arts Co-op students:

- Publishing Team
- Social Team
- Finance & Promotions Team
- Web Team
- Mentorship Team
- Alumni Relations Team
- Professional Development Team

In addition to regular professional development workshops, mentoring, and a range of social events, ACSA also contributes a portion of each students' membership fees to the UBC United Way campaign, helping to raise awareness of the needs and services within our local community.

To learn more about ACSA and their accomplishments, visit <http://acsaubc.wordpress.com>.



# STUDENT SALARY AVERAGES

Since the Program's launch in January 2000, Arts Co-op student wages have totaled over \$47.4 million!

The following salary data shows co-op salary averages by employment sector. Undergraduate students earn an average of \$2,094 per month while on Arts Co-op work terms, while graduate students earn an average of \$2,651 per month. In total, undergraduate Arts Co-op students earned \$3,728,078 in salaries during 2017/18, and graduate Arts Co-op students earned \$880,157 in salaries, for a total of \$4,608,235 earned in 2017/18.

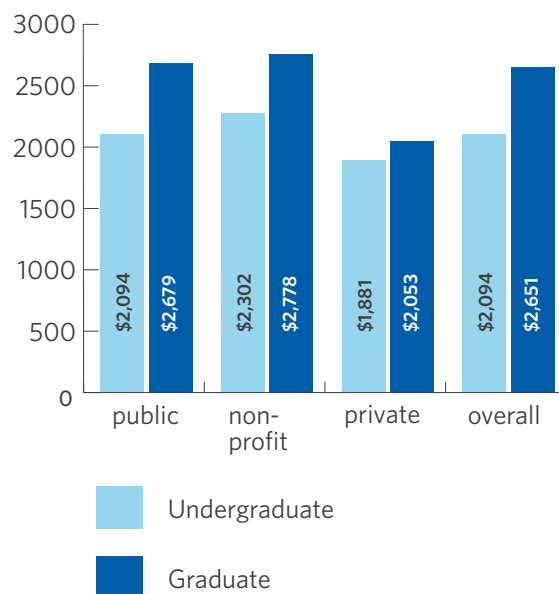
An undergraduate student will earn on average a total of \$24,907 over 3 work terms. Students who choose to do an optional fourth co-op work term before graduation will earn an average of \$35,279 and students who choose to do an optional fifth co-op work term will earn an average of \$47,999.



## UNDERGRADUATE SALARY BY WORK TERM

Work Term	Average Salary
1	\$8,138
2	\$8,128
3	\$8,641
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,907</b>
4	\$10,371
5	\$12,720
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,999</b>

## UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE MONTHLY SALARIES BY SECTOR



## STUDENT PROFILES



### **KATIE STANNARD**

**Major: International Relations**

**Minor: Environment and Society**

Arts Co-op has provided Katie Stannard with opportunities for personal development beyond her wildest expectations, leading her to identify new aspirations for her education and career. As the Communications Assistant at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, Katie was responsible for writing monthly news articles, managing social media, and creating graphics for marketing campaigns. In this position, she was able to engage with a diverse range of researchers and activists, including Vancouver's own David Suzuki and Andrew Feinstein, a leader in the global fight against corruption. Katie had so many opportunities to improve and practice her writing in her four months with the Institute that she was able to gain the skills she was hoping to develop through a minor in Creative Writing. Working with various Institute scholars contributed to her passion for Environment and Society, which she has now decided to focus on for her minor. Katie's work term both extended her classroom learning and shaped her future studies. Through co-op, students like Katie develop experiences and passions that define their academic and professional journey.



### **SARAH NEUBAUER**

**Program: International Economics**

Sarah has accomplished a lot during her time in Arts Co-op, by applying her academic knowledge to the workplace and utilizing all that the Program has to offer. Previous work terms with Columbia Basin Trust and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong have prepared her for her current position as the Student Transportation Planner in Policy Development at Translink. Sarah's focus in analyzing projects involving transportation and policy from an economic perspective allows her to build and develop skills in the field of her degree. For example, she is able to apply specific knowledge such as analyzing macro data, elasticities, and price curves when understanding regional trends. Through co-op, Sarah has had the opportunity to work in a variety of sectors with different companies and has figured out what she values in a position beyond the job description, such as workplace culture or flexibility in her work hours. She credits co-op with providing essential resources needed to secure a job and prepare for a professional career after graduation, as well as allowing her to work on impactful policies.

## STUDENT PROFILES

### **TINA YU**

**Major: English, Emphasis Literature**  
**Minor: Commerce**

Through Arts Co-op, Tina is making a positive impact while exploring her dream career in social work. For her first work term, Tina served as a First Nation Outreach Worker with the Squamish Nation. As an aspiring social worker hoping to help vulnerable individuals, Tina calls this co-op a "perfect fit" for her future goals. Collaborating with other Squamish Nation departments and external agencies like BC Hydro and Health Services, Tina was responsible for providing intake assessments to Squamish Band members who are facing crisis, offering emotional support and assessing how the Nation can best address their needs. Working on the frontline of Indigenous support services, Tina felt that "the issues and struggles Indigenous communities face are even more intricate and complex than we were taught" and she believes co-op has given her "insight, hands-on experience, and a better understanding of everyday problems" facing Indigenous communities. To Tina, this work term was "both a cultural and professional learning experience" – an opportunity to build her skills in social work while making a positive difference in the Indigenous community.



### **AVRIL HWANG**

**Program: Media Studies**

In her own words, Avril Hwang believes that "the Arts Co-op Program has allowed me to expand my technical repertoire without fear of failure." Avril spent her first co-op term working as the Social Media Coordinator for UBC Athletics and Recreation, where she managed over 20 social media accounts for UBC's various athletics teams. From print to video, this experience allowed Avril to build her skills in a vast range of media, perfectly complementing the experimental and diverse nature of her program. Avril found her co-op experience to be "an immensely valuable testing ground," as the technical skills she learned from experts in marketing and journalism will certainly be useful in her future studies and career in media. Her most memorable accomplishment was helping advertise and orchestrate UBC's 2017 Homecoming, where a record-breaking 9,542 football fans cheered the UBC Thunderbirds to a 31-10 win against Saskatchewan. Through co-op, Avril has supplemented her degree with technical experience in a diverse range of media platforms and a variety of memorable accomplishments, making her future professional goals that much more attainable.





## STUDENT PROFILES



### **STEPHEN McCAUSLAND** **Major: Geography**

Following his co-op term at YVR, Stephen stepped into a new experience as a Community Planning Student for the City of Abbotsford, his hometown. Stephen feels his past experience with Geographic Information Systems at YVR prepared him exceptionally well for the position, and he is thrilled to be putting his urban planning aspirations into practice. Stephen has been involved in a number of projects at the City, but a special highlight has been contributing to the community plan for McKee Peak, the Abbotsford neighbourhood where his parents live! In addition to building his experience in urban planning, Stephen has focused on developing his professional network and reputation in the planning field. Reflecting on his experience in networking, Stephen says he has found remarkable success by completing his work diligently while cultivating deep relationships with his colleagues and supervisors. Stephen believes this approach will allow him to achieve his goals in urban planning, especially since his supervisors have recruited him as a part-time staff member in the department. Through co-op, Stephen has developed skills, experiences, and relationships that are allowing him to realize his professional dreams.



### **ALI BAJWA** **Program: Public Policy & Global Affairs**

By putting policy theory into practice, Ali gained hands-on experience and leveraged his degree to the best of his abilities. In his co-op position as a Research Intern at the Conference Board of Canada, he analyzed the Canadian entrepreneur immigration policy, engaged with experts in the settlement sector in an effort to understand settlement patterns of newcomers to Canada, and informed relevant stakeholders and the public of this research through policy briefs and blogs. According to Ali, some of the biggest takeaways from being an Arts Co-op student included the ability to establish a network in the policy field in Ottawa, the chance to learn the nuances of the practical application of his academic studies, and the opportunity to explore more avenues of “gainful employment.” Not only does Ali now have greater confidence and a better understanding of his career objectives, he has also been able to lay the ground work for potential employment opportunities post-graduation.

## STUDENT PROFILES

### **KAREN NG**

#### **Program: Dual Archival Studies, Library & Information Studies**

Karen has been able to draw direct connections from her studies, specifically her Arrangement and Description of Archival Materials course, to hands-on experience during her Arts Co-op work term with the University of Victoria (UVic) Libraries. As the Special Collections and Archives Assistant, she focuses on processing back-logged archival materials and assisting curators with their exhibition installations. One of Karen's most significant accomplishments during her work term has been the complex project of processing a deposit from a local artist and writing the finding aid. By relocating for this position, Karen has had the opportunity to visit other archives and libraries, while learning from and networking with the staff at UVic Libraries. Connecting with professionals in her field has been invaluable because she is able to "hear about others' career pathways and the kind of work they do at the university, offering some perspective on the information field." Karen looks forward to continuing to learn and grow after graduation with the experience she gained through co-op.



### **ANDREA LUKIC**

#### **Program: Library & Information Studies**

During her work term with Halifax Public Libraries in Nova Scotia, Andrea worked with community members and provided personalized support for individuals with learning challenges. She collaborated with individuals, organizations, and politicians in the Dartmouth North community to achieve meaningful programming recommendations for the first ever outdoor library space in Canada. Andrea had the opportunity to apply her academic knowledge of community librarianship to her workplace, by prioritizing patron needs and ensuring that libraries are accessible, relevant, and helpful to the community. Andrea shared that Arts Co-op has changed her perception of working with teens and as a result, enhanced her confidence in working with that age group. Overall, co-op has made an important impact on how Andrea is moving forward in her own professional development – recognizing challenges faced by libraries, and actively seeking to overcome these obstacles in her future work opportunities.



## ALUMNI PROFILES



### **DUNCAN WRIGHT | B.A. 2008 | Asian Studies** **Head of North Asia - Search, Assistant and Web Partnerships, Google**

For Duncan, co-op opened doors that directly led him to his current position with Google Japan. Over four work terms, he was able to develop skills in project and stakeholder management that are essential to his current work as Head of Product Partnerships. During one of his terms with what is now Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Duncan landed funding from a variety of Government and industry partners in order to produce a 120-page publication outlining BC's mining service and supply industry – all in four months! Even with this accomplishment, Duncan credits a conversation with his supervisor as one of his most memorable co-op experiences. Duncan recalls, "He told me that I should never introduce myself as 'the intern,' because I was truly a valuable part of the team and in charge of some significant projects." After graduation, Duncan continued to work with GAC before being posted to the Canadian Embassy in Japan, which ultimately led him to his current position. Duncan's experience highlights, in his words, "what co-op is all about" – the opportunity to become an integral part of an organization and do work that is beyond the scope of a typical intern.



### **STEPHANIE TAIT | B.A. 2005 | International Relations & Women's Studies** **Director of Delivery, ExperiencePoint**

As the Director of Delivery at ExperiencePoint, Stephanie contributes to the development of innovation and change management workshops that transform the way people learn, manage change, and solve complex problems. Work terms with Tourism Whistler and UBC Arts Co-op gave Stephanie the opportunity to refine skills in public speaking, facilitation, and coaching that are fundamental to her current position. Not only did these positions help Stephanie validate that she wanted to pursue a career involving coaching others, they also gave her a portfolio of credible experiences to draw upon long after graduation. In fact, the skills and confidence she gained from co-op proved to be incredibly valuable in launching her own successful coaching business following her undergraduate studies. From there, Stephanie continued to draw upon co-op experience to co-found Run for One Planet, for which she received a Meritorious Service Decoration in 2016 from the Governor General. Like many co-op students, Stephanie took initiative in building her own unique career path from the opportunities that co-op provided.



### **JASON CHANG | B.A. 2017 | Economics & Commerce** **Senior Statistics Analyst, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation**

For Jason, being an Arts Co-op student was one of the main reasons he was able to secure a full-time position shortly after graduation. He began his co-op journey at Telus as a Process Improvement Analyst, where he worked to analyze inefficient operational processes and provided recommendations to help improve the customer churn rate. For his next term, Jason worked with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) as a Student, Market Analysis, where he analyzed and assessed housing and economic conditions within the Vancouver Census Metropolitan area. Throughout his co-op terms, Jason was able to improve his data analysis skills with hands-on experience in solving business problems. Oftentimes, this meant the chance to build upon his studies by learning new software and other tools that were not taught in his courses. Arts Co-op provided Jason with access to the public research industry and the necessary experience to transition into full-time positions with CMHC post-graduation: first as a Market Analyst, and then to his current role of Senior Statistics Analyst.



**JESSICA TUNG | Dual Master of Archival Studies and Master of Library & Information Studies, 2018**  
**Records Management Coordinator, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority**

For Jessica Tung, co-op provided the opportunity to gain the unique experience needed for her current position as the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's Records Management Coordinator. Work terms with Devon Energy Calgary, UBC Library's Rare Books Special Collections, and the SFU Board Office allowed Jessica to develop her skills in records management and corporate librarianship. Most significantly, however, these positions helped to solidify her passion for records and information management while giving her the confidence and ability to advocate for quality archives and records. Jessica highlights a well-received presentation at the end of her term with Devon Energy as a memorable co-op experience; "I was able to impart on my large corporate audience the importance of a mutual understanding of what a 'record' means, and the implications of that mutual understanding within the organization." Through co-op, Jessica was able to pave the way to her current position, gaining what she calls "invaluable experiences" each step along the way.



**STEPHANIE SAVAGE | Master of Library & Information Studies, 2016**  
**Librarian, UBC Library Scholarly Communications and Copyright Office**

Stephanie credits co-op with giving her the insights and experiences that led her to her current position of Librarian with the UBC Library Scholarly Communications and Copyright Office, where she completed two of her co-op terms. During her work term as a Student Librarian, Stephanie was responsible for providing a series of workshops on behalf of the Office, speaking authoritatively on copyright in both the academic and UBC-specific contexts, as well as thoroughly assessing faculty course support services. Through co-op, Stephanie gained hands-on knowledge and learned what it is like to work in an academic library - all of which she could not have learned in the classroom alone. By helping her gain the confidence and required knowledge for competitive applications to librarian positions, co-op was instrumental in preparing Stephanie for professional opportunities after graduation.



## ALUMNI RELATIONS

The UBC Arts Co-op Alumni Network started in 2010 and the 2017/18 Organizing Committee consists of Ge Li (BA '16) and Wendy Chan (BA '15). They work closely with the Arts Co-op office and the Arts Alumni Relations office to connect alumni, staff, current students, and the university. The group holds networking events throughout the year, and shares professional advice with current students through pre-employment conferences and the ACSA mentorship program.

UBC alumni play a critical role in supporting the growth of our program. In 2017/18, they posted 134 co-op positions with our program, accounting for 8% of all postings.



### **JULIE WALCHLI, Director**

Julie has worked in the field of co-operative education since 1997 when she founded the first co-op education program in Arts at UBC in the English Department. Since then she has helped to create an Arts-wide program for students throughout all undergraduate programs, masters programs in the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, and recently to PhD students in the English and History Departments. She is currently managing a multi-year, Arts-wide project to explore ways to support faculty members, staff, and students to integrate career education throughout the undergraduate experience. During 2008/09 she completed a secondment with the UBC Go Global International Learning Programs Office, creating a Student Safety Abroad policy and resources for UBC, and a handbook for faculty members leading Group Study Programs Abroad.

Julie has served in a number of leadership roles in the co-op community, including President of the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education and President of the BC Co-op Association. A graduate from UBC's B.A. and M.A. programs in English, Julie taught in the English department from 1993-97 and co-edited *Landmarks: A Process Reader for Canadian Writers*. Recognitions include the UBC President's Service Award for Staff Excellence and the Association for Co-operative Education in BC/Yukon award for outstanding contributions to the Association.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., English (Honours) & Political Science (University of BC)  
Graduate Degree: M.A., English (University of BC)



### **SHEILA ASHWELL, Associate Director**

Sheila has been working in the career education and employment services field for over 2 decades. Starting with youth in the Vancouver School Board, she moved on to recruitment services, employment coaching, and workshop delivery with Career Services (now the Centre for Student Involvement and Careers) at UBC, and has spent the last 16 years actively involved in the growth and development of UBC's Arts Co-op Program.

An alumna of UBC's Psychology Program, along with a M.Ed. in Counselling Psychology, Sheila understands the value of an Arts degree, and is passionate about helping students see how they can apply their Arts degree in the workforce. As the Associate Director, Sheila oversees the Undergraduate Arts Co-op program, including the strategic direction of the prospective co-op student recruitment process and pre-employment training/advising services offered to students.

In 2008/09 Sheila served as Acting Director of the Arts Co-op Program. In 2009/2010, she took a personal leave to act as UBC's Loaned Representative to the United Way of the Lower Mainland and to volunteer/travel in East Africa. Sheila is the recipient of the 2008 Dean of Arts Award for Staff Excellence. She has mentored many students through the UBC Arts Tri-Mentoring Program, recently joined as a mentor with the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education's Mentorship Program, and liaises with the Arts Co-op Alumni Network executive committee.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., Psychology (University of BC)  
Graduate Degree: M.Ed., Counselling Psychology (University of BC)



### **GELSEY GUAN, Coordinator, Undergraduate Student Engagement**

Gelsey comes to UBC Arts Co-op after working in private industry as a Chartered Professional in Human Resources. Among her accomplishments, the most notable include helping BMW Canada's largest retail partner to earn top national ranking in Training and Development for two consecutive years, facilitating the launch of Philips' new HR Information System, and assisting Metrie with building its first company-wide performance management program. Through years of observation and experience dealing with employee performance issues, Gelsey believes that future career success is greatly influenced by the opportunity for students to take part in experiential learning, where they can practice, learn, cultivate and reflect on essential competencies. Gelsey is currently pursuing a Master of Education at UBC to understand adult learning in the context of globalization.

Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Commerce, Human Resources; Minor Psychology (University of BC)



### **ANNA JUBILO, Coordinator, Graduate Programs**

Anna has been working with graduate students since 2002 and has a wide-ranging background in program coordination, librarianship, communications, and administration; extensive experience working with and participating in international exchange programs; as well as many years at UBC. She first worked with Arts Co-op in 2001 as a Communications Assistant co-op student shared with the Dean of Arts Office. Her other co-op positions were as a Technical Communicator for TELUS Enterprise Solutions and as an Academic Office Assistant with the YMCA International College. During her M.L.I.S. degree at UBC, Anna completed a practicum and professional experience with the Vancouver Art Gallery, worked as a Coordinator for the Vancouver Public Library's Summer Readalong Program, and as a work-study student, managing UBC Linguistics' Reading Room. She has been in her role with Arts Co-op since 2008. Anna is also actively involved in the Association for Co-operative Education in BC/Yukon as Co-Chair of their Professional Development Committee.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., English & Linguistics (University of BC)

Graduate Degree: M.L.I.S. (University of BC)



### **SAVANNAH LI, Program Assistant**

As a recent co-op graduate from the UBC Sauder School of Business, Savannah is excited to continue her journey with UBC and to support experiential learning opportunities with students, employers and faculty members. Through her co-op terms, Savannah gained a variety of experiences, including positions with Aon and UBC Go Global, as well as working abroad as a Recruitment Assistant with Perfect World in Beijing. These work terms enabled Savannah to apply classroom knowledge in the workplace, and now offer her a unique perspective on local and international placements. Savannah is keen to blend these experiences and her passion for student growth to help individuals reach their potential through Arts Co-op.

Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Commerce (Honours), Org. Behavior & HR & International Business (University of BC)



## ARTS CO-OP STAFF



### **HEATHER LIAU, Manager, Marketing & Industry Relations**

Combining her background in marketing and a passion for student learning, Heather supports the growth of the Arts Co-op Program through active marketing and industry outreach. She works with employers, alumni, and industry partners to promote co-op hiring and to create quality learning experiences for Arts Co-op students. In her previous experience, Heather brought international attention to British Columbia's technology industry by launching the province's first International Partnering Forum at the Vancouver International Digital Festival. Through Heather's personalized business matchmaking, local companies were able to pitch the likes of Cartoon Network, BBC, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Heather has also led multiple cross-functional teams in marketing campaigns for Vision Critical, makers of one of the world's most adopted online research platforms.

Undergraduate Degree: B.Com., Marketing (University of BC)



### **KERRY ROSS, MPPGA Career & Co-op Coordinator**

Kerry's work in various roles at UBC over the last 10 years has focused on program development and management and student services and advising. She was the Program Manager for the Master of Arts Asia Pacific Policy Studies and more recently, the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA). In July 2018, Kerry stepped into the role of Career & Co-op Coordinator for the MPPGA program to focus on advising and supporting students as they develop, plan and implement their individual and diverse career paths. Kerry's work at UBC has also included special projects and event management, often with a focus on Asia. She is particularly passionate about the empowerment of young girls and women and encouraging them to take up positions of leadership.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., Anthropology (University of Victoria)



### **ISABELLA SQUARISI, Senior Program Assistant**

Isabella moved abroad from Brazil to pursue a degree internationally, leading her to acquire an Associate Degree in Psychology in California, and a B.A. in International Relations from UBC. She started her professional journey in Canada as a Work Learn student with UBC's Faculty of Medicine, eventually leading to a role as Curriculum Coordinator for 120 Masters students in Occupational Therapy. Isabella's experience living, working and studying abroad complements her passion for student academic and professional development. As the Senior Program Assistant with Arts Co-op, Isabella supports essential operations of the program by overseeing all stages of the hiring process in close collaboration with students, employers, and other stakeholders.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., International Relations (University of BC)



### **MERRY WANG, Coordinator, Information Management**

Having graduated from the UBC Arts Co-op Program in May 2005, Merry has first-hand knowledge of the value of co-operative education. Through the Arts Co-op Program, Merry learned how to apply the skills she developed as an International Relations major in a variety of work environments. Merry completed her co-op work terms at S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (as an Assistant Program Coordinator), Atira Women's Resource Society (as a Human Resources Assistant), and TRIUMF (as a Technology Transfer Assistant). Merry hopes that through participation in the Arts Co-op Program, students, employers, and faculty members will realize that a Liberal Arts education prepares students for a wide range of career opportunities. Merry is the recipient of the 2012 Dean of Arts Award for Staff Excellence.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., International Relations (University of BC)



### **DAVID YUEN, Manager, Job Development**

David, an Arts Co-op graduate, started his journey with the Arts Co-op team as its Program Assistant. During the three years in this role, David had the opportunity to build on his undergraduate experience and passion for student affairs and experiential learning by managing all aspects of the co-op hiring process. Since June 2015, David has helped the Program expand its opportunities by cultivating new partnerships with industry as the Manager, Job Development. He also continues to leverage his career and co-op advising expertise to help students successfully transition into young professionals. From his roots as an Arts Co-op student, David is dedicated to spreading the enriching value of co-operative education to students and employers alike.

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., International Relations & Psychology (University of BC)





## HIRE EDUCATION

The UBC Arts Co-op Program has students available each January, May, and September for 4 or 8-month paid work placements.

Undergraduate students study a wide range of courses in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Creative and Performing Arts.

Graduate students from the iSchool, Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs, and English PhD programs are also available.

## ARTS CO-OP OFFICE

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Arts Co-op Program