ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Bachelor of Science in Agriculture – Honours Agriculture (AGRS) major combines a core curriculum of agricultural science courses with a wide range of electives focusing on agri-food business, animal and plant production, land stewardship and sustainability. This major allows students to create a curriculum uniquely tailored to their career goals and provides opportunities to explore leading-edge agricultural research in animal production, plant biotechnology and pest management. The combination of a solid understanding of life science and current agricultural practice with specialized skills and experience provided by this program is greatly valued by prospective employers in this essential sector of Canada’s economy. With a broad scope of career options, AGRS co-op students will build transferrable skills during co-op work terms contributing to their work readiness and career prospects upon graduation.

WHY CO-OP?

As a co-op student, you will gain relevant work experience, build professional networks, and develop essential transferrable skills needed to succeed in the workplace, all while getting paid and earning your university degree. Guelph’s co-op program is unique due to the exceptional level of support provided to students, including a job search preparatory course, a personal connection with a Co-op Coordinator to assist you during the employment process, and targeted work term reports to help you develop relevant skills.

COURSE SEQUENCING

The Honours Agriculture program has two sample sequences that include 4-month, 8-month and 12-month options. These sequences meet the Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Canada (CEWIL) accreditation requirements.

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SAMPLE JOBS

Student Laboratory Technician

The student will participate in Method Development and validation projects, assist in Molecular Biology methods for Organism identification and Characterization, and assist in the set up and microbiological analysis of food samples for a variety of pathogens.

Operations Intern

Working with National Operations in a multitude of areas including operational and financial management with focus areas in cost-benefit analysis, resource and land economics, supply and value chain management & marketing research, the Operations Intern will receive training and experience in many areas.

Research Technician

Assist with the daily research and product development activities of the full-time staff and provide small plot trial experience in everything from field to orchard crops. Research Technicians will learn how assess the efficacy of pesticides through evaluation and data collection. The Research Technician will also assist with plot preparation and layout, test substance application, crop maintenance and harvest, trial evaluation, and crop and soil sample collection.

SAMPLE EMPLOYERS*

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
- FARMS.com
- Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs
- National Research Council Canada

*Sample co-op employer list only. Employers will vary depending on recruitment needs. During a job search, students are encouraged to be actively engaged and are also supported in establishing and maintaining their own personal contacts.

SALARY INFORMATION

Students receive compensation from their employer for co-op work terms. The rate of pay will vary depending on a number of factors including the industry, the student's program of study, and work term level. For your reference, a Co-operative Education Salary Guide is available on our website, which provides hourly rates (averages and ranges) for each degree program.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED

- Strong background in agriculture science, with hands-on experience in the field and lab
- A solid understanding of life sciences and current agricultural practices
- Well-developed written and verbal communication, and interpersonal competencies
- Advanced skills in presentation delivery