

# CO-OP and BEYOND

Almost all Georgian programs offer a **work-integrated learning experience**.

It's a chance for you to gain experience as part of your program.

HERE  
ARE

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TYPES

of **work-integrated learning** offered at Georgian.

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## CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Gain experience in a workplace related to your field of study. This is the most common type of work-integrated learning at Georgian, and formally integrates your academic studies within a workplace, with critical reflection on the experience. Most students apply to co-op postings in GeorgianConnects, Georgian's database, and secure positions through a formal interview process.

- Wages:** At Georgian, all co-ops are paid. Salaries vary, but start at minimum wage.
- Hours:** Co-op students typically work full-time hours.
- Duration:** Each co-op lasts a full term. The number of co-op terms varies by program, but co-op must account for 30 per cent of programs longer than two years, and 25 per cent of programs shorter than two years.
- Example:** An Automotive Business student works at a car dealership for four months, between academic terms.

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## CLINICAL PLACEMENT

Get clinical experience under the supervision of an experienced registered or licensed professional in a discipline that requires practice-based clinical experience for a professional licence or certification.

- Wages:** Clinical placements are unpaid.
- Hours:** Hours vary by placement, but most are full-time.
- Duration:** Varies by program.
- Example:** A Practical Nursing student spends a total of 168 hours supporting clients' unique care needs in a variety of practice settings, while completing other coursework.

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## FIELD PLACEMENT

Gain hands-on experience in a setting relevant to your program.

- Wages:** Most field placements are unpaid.
- Hours:** They could be part-time or full-time. Sometimes students are in field placements concurrent with regular course work or after all academic courses.
- Duration:** These are typically short-term experiences.
- Example:** A Paralegal student works under the supervision of a licensee of the Law Society of Ontario (LSO) for 120 hours within the Paralegal scope of practice, after the final term. Law clerk students work within a legal environment for 84 hours at the end of the final term.

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## INTERNSHIP

Take part in a supervised, structured work opportunity — typically for academic credit.

- Wages:** Some internships are paid.
- Hours:** Hours vary, but internships are typically full-time.
- Duration:** Internships at Georgian are typically four months long and placed at the end of an academic program, prior to graduation.
- Example:** A Therapeutic Recreation student works in a nursing home for four months after courses end.

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## APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Work with Georgian's Research and Innovation department to help businesses with product design, prototyping, market research, testing, and more. Research projects — typically completed for academic credit — can be co-op terms, capstone assignments, or integrated into courses.

- Wages:** Most applied research projects are unpaid, unless students are on co-op terms.
- Hours:** Vary by opportunity.
- Duration:** Varies by opportunity.
- Example:** An Electrical Engineering Technology student works under the supervision of faculty to prototype a new product for a company, for four months between academic terms.

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING (A.K.A. SERVICE LEARNING OR CSL)

Integrate meaningful community service with classroom learning and critical reflection. The goal of CSL is to enrich your learning experience and strengthen communities, typically in partnership with a community-based organization. These opportunities are cultivated by a faculty member in a specific course or program in alignment with program learning outcomes.

- Wages:** This is unpaid experience.
- Hours:** Vary by opportunity.
- Duration:** The length varies by experience and partner.
- Example:** As part of a course project, a Social Service Worker student helps a local shelter raise awareness about a new community program.

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## APPRENTICESHIP

Apprenticeship is an agreement between a person who wants to learn a skill and an employer who provides them with paid practical experience, under the direction of a certified journey person in a work environment conducive to learning the tasks and functions of a skilled worker. Georgian offers the technical classroom training required for certification.

- Wages:** Apprenticeships are paid, but salaries vary.
- Hours:** Apprentices typically work full-time hours.
- Duration:** Apprenticeships take two to five years to complete, depending on the trade. They are approximately 80 per cent on-the-job experience with 20 per cent technical classroom training — which you can do at Georgian.
- Example:** Someone who wants to be a plumber works under the supervision of a certified plumber, as part of a contracting firm.

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## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Contribute to flourishing communities and economies through entrepreneurial and changemaking work-integrated learning opportunities. Access resources, space, mentorship and funding to develop your small business or address societal challenges.

- iCo-op:** Georgian's Centre for Changemaking and Social Innovation (CCSI) offers Innovation Co-op (iCo-op), through which students join inter-disciplinary design teams and work alongside community partners to tackle complex social issues like affordable housing and food insecurity.
- eCo-op:** Georgian's Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre offers Entrepreneurship Co-op (eCo-op), which offers full-time students the opportunity to work with mentors and experts on their startup ideas for their co-op credit.

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## #CHANGETHENOW

Think you can change the world? We do too. **#ChangeTheNow** helps you build key employability skills like empathy, leadership, teamwork, and systems thinking — while working on an industry-sponsored social challenge. Use **#ChangeTheNow** as your field placement, capstone, applied project or co-op credit.

- Supported by social innovation experts and mentors, work as part of a global movement of changemakers to explore solutions to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
- Eligible students have the option to be matched with students from institutions around the world.
- #ChangeTheNow** also allows you to apply for a Changemaker micro-certificate.