

ECON 987 MA COOP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
[Department of Economics, University of Saskatchewan]

A) General Description:

The internship program represents a partnership between the Department of Economics, the business community, and government and community organizations for the purpose of enhancing the educational process and learning experience of MA graduate students in economics who are registered in the MA Coop Program, by integrating applied and conceptual learning. Through their participation in the Program, students receive valuable work experience, while at the same time meeting their degree requirements. Moreover, participating internship students will have opportunities to demonstrate not only their solid research skills, including the ability to effectively communicate, but also to learn excellent time management skills and the ability to work both independently and/or as a member of a team when it comes to research and problem solving skills, and specific work-place related skills.

The specifics of our MA Coop Program are:

- MA Economics students are available for co-op internships starting on May 1st, September 1st, or January 1st for a period of 4, 8, or 12 months.
- It is expected that they will be hired full-time, working between 37.5 – 40 hours per week.
- The pay scale is set by market conditions; however, it is generally expected that the hourly pay will range from roughly \$22 to \$28 per hour with some flexibility in the actual employment contract to be possible.
- It is expected that students will be treated by their host organization as regular employees regarding employee benefits, responsibilities, and performance of duties.
- A successful Co-op placement – a “Passing Grade” - is required for the degree.
- The method of evaluating these co-op internships will consist of a feedback survey by the host organization and a student internship report on their experience once the internship has been completed.
- Finally, before starting their full-time coop position, students will have to complete all mandatory and elective graduate courses in their MA graduate program.

Economics students are actively hired provincially and nationally in positions related to economic analysis, financial advising and analysis, risk management, healthcare analysis, quantitative/statistical analysis, public policy, corporate policy, international development and international trade, market analysis, and resource management.

B) Specific Benefits for Host Organizations:

- Specifically, armed with the very latest tools, techniques and innovations, our MA Coop internship students bring a new perspective and the latest knowledge to their workplace at their host organizations.
- Participating in our MA Coop Internship Program allows host organizations to connect with the university-based research expertise at the graduate level, allowing them, for example, to expand their own R&D program by receiving the application of the latest advances in quantitative analysis.
- Depending on an individual student's strengths and areas of interest, the host organization will be able to employ the student to develop research and analysis tasks that will support the efforts and ongoing activities of the organization as a whole.
- Consequently, this MA Coop internship program is designed to provide flexible research support while increasing each student's level of interaction and learning experience with the host organization's staff in an interaction-based work environment. All of this will not only provide participating students with a higher likelihood of gaining a reference for future employment pursuits, but also give the host organization the opportunity to interact with the interns, and collaborate and mentor them as they provide the timely delivery of research and analytical support. The interactive nature of this program will also enable the host organization to gauge each student's interests, skill level and work ethic so that they can mentor and guide students more appropriately throughout their internship experience. Therefore, the benefits of this program are two-fold: the host organization receives much needed analytical research support and specific work-related productivity that are flexible and timely while students gain practical workplace experience.
- All of these benefits are important for the host organization in its ability to evaluate participating students as potential future employees.

Employers interested in recruiting MA Economics students are encouraged to contact Alfons Boving, Academic Economics Co-op coordinator, Department of Economics, at (306) 966-6910 or at alfons.boving@usask.ca