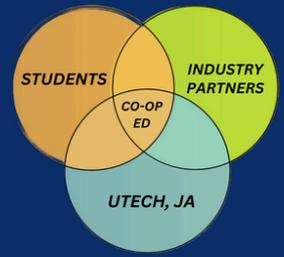




CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION AT UTECH, JA. NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2
AUGUST 2024

“Partnering With Industry to Produce Work-ready Leaders”



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UPCOMING EVENT

CO-OP ED AWARDS CEREMONY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

The Co-op Ed Awards Ceremony and Professional Development Seminar is hosted each year to recognise the exemplary performance of our Co-op Ed students and the dedicated commitment and support our industry partners.

Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024 ; 3:00- 5:30 pm
Venue: LT-50 Papine Campus



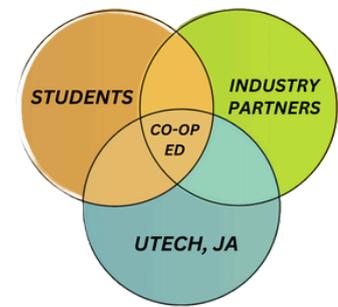
DID YOU KNOW....

You can become a Co-op Ed Student Ambassador!

Inside this issue you will find information on how you can become a Co-op Ed Student Ambassador, a voluntary position that enhances your professional development, as well as leadership, planning and organisational skills, among other things.



INTEGRATING CLASSROOM LEARNING WITH RELEVANT & RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE



Co-operative Education

Partnering with industry to produce work-ready graduates...

What is the Mission of UTech's Cooperative Education Programme?

UTech, Ja.'s Co-op Ed programme is designed primarily to provide:

- **Students with practical and professional exposure in real work settings, through internship, professional practice and other forms of work-integrated learning activities.**
- **Industry with student employees who are equipped with the necessary skills and competencies to help organisations to remain competitive within the global economy.**

What is Co-operative Education?

Co-operative Education is a structured approach to integrating classroom learning with on-the-job work experiences which are related to the students' course of study and their career goals.

The Co-operative Education Unit is responsible for overseeing the implementation of Co-operative Education modules across the university's academic units. Through close collaboration with the faculties/colleges/ schools, it identifies and creates mutually beneficial placement opportunities for students within public and private sector agencies, both locally and internationally.



Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) Modules Under Co-op Ed

Several WIL modules are offered under the Co-op Ed. These include:

- **Internship** - offered by the Schools of Hospitality & Tourism Management; Building & Land Management; Computing & Information Technology
- **Work Experience** - offered by the Schools of Technical & Vocational Education; Business Administration; Natural & Applied Sciences; Engineering
- **Practicum** - offered by the Schools of Humanities & Social Sciences; Mathematics & Applied Sciences, as well as Caribbean School of Sport Sciences
- **Industrial Attachment** - offered by the School of Technical & Vocational Education
- **Professional Practice** - offered by the School of Building & Land Management

From the desk of the Acting University Co-op Ed Coordinator



Well done to all our Co-op Ed students who have successfully completed their engagements. No doubt you gained invaluable competences which will help to shape your development as professionals. Continue to make yourselves and UTech, Jamaica proud as you return to complete your studies or move on to make our mark in industry! Thank you to the School Coordinators who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the programme is a success.

Sandy Lawrence



The Co-op Ed Unit falls under the Office of Teaching & Learning. This is located on St. Kitts Close at the Papine Campus.

Did You Know?

All registered students are eligible to participate in the Co-op Ed programme!

AY 2023/24 HIGHLIGHTS

NEW

KPMG

The 11th cohort of Co-op Ed students has completed their engagement with KPMG. The closing ceremony was held on April 26, 2024.

Each year KPMG engages Accounting, Finance & Banking, and IT Auditing students from January to April for tax audit assistance. The first cohort was engaged in 2014.



KPMG Staff, Acting University Co-op Ed Coordinator and participating students



Acting University Co-op Ed Coordinator (Left) with students

CEMEX

The University was invited to the 4th Annual CEMEX Campus Launch on April 24, 2024. Four students along with the University Co-op Ed coordinator attended the event. Following the launch, our students were privilege to participate in several webinars facilitated by top executives and experts region, and which were aimed at enhancing the intellectual development of budding professionals, sharing updates on traditional and new practices in the construction sector, first-hand knowledge of multinational operations and cutting edge technologies.



Acting University Co-op Ed Coordinator (centre) with students



CO-OP ED FAIR



Themed "Preparing GenZ Leaders for Borderless Work," the fair was a celebration of synergy between academia and industry, aiming to partner with various sectors to nurture the next generation of work-ready leaders. With a strong emphasis on practical application, the Co-op Ed Programme serves as a pivotal link between classroom learning and on-the-job skills.



A total of 236 students registered for the Fair on February 29, 2024, to explore internship opportunities across various industries. The Fair featured a face-to-face event with fifteen companies offering insights into their operations and potential internship roles.

On March 7, the fair transitioned to an online format, featuring nine dynamic companies, allowing students to engage with industry leaders and explore internship possibilities.





At the heart of it all, the Co-op Ed Fair embodied the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and opportunity. It was a testament to the university's commitment to empowering students with practical skills and experiences, preparing them to thrive in an ever-evolving professional landscape.



None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers. With approximately 12 enthusiastic volunteers on board, the Fair ran seamlessly, facilitating interactions between students and companies with finesse and enthusiasm.

As we reflect on the success of this year's fair, let's continue to seize every opportunity, embrace every challenge, and chart our course towards a future filled with endless possibilities. Here's to the next generation of leaders, ready to make their mark on the world!



INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

ADVANCING CO-OPERATIVE AND WORK-INTEGRATED EDUCATION

Did You Know?

WACE is the only international professional organisation dedicated to developing, expanding, branding and advocating for cooperative and work-integrated education programs within the industry and educational institutions.

The association aims to be the top international organisation promoting collaboration among higher education institutions, employers, and public authorities to prepare future generations for professional success in a diverse global workforce.

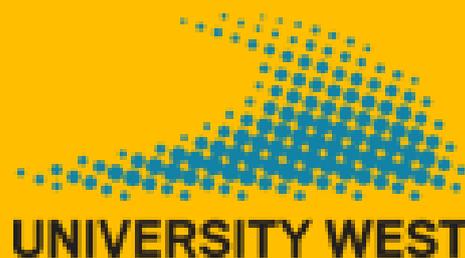


WACE has introduced Cooperative & Work-Integrated Education (CWIE), a comprehensive approach to experiential learning for industry and educational institutions. CWIE encompasses various forms of learning, including internships, industry semesters, international co-op exchanges, study abroad, research, clinical rotations, service learning, and community service. WACE aims to implement programmes and services to support and expand the global industry and the CWIE community.

2024 WACE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Theme: Work-integrated learning and the sustainable knowledge society

The WACE International Research Symposium was an exciting event with a variety of concurrent sessions, networking opportunities, and enjoyable social events. It was held at University West's conveniently located campus in Trollhättan, Sweden from June 12 to June 14, 2024.



Source: <https://waceinc.org>

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE



NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, USA



For over 115 years, Northeastern has been a world leader in cooperative education, the University's cornerstone experiential learning programme.

Cooperative Education has been a historical strength of Northeastern University's experiential learning brand. Each year students at every level and on every campus location participate in this signature model of experiential learning.

Our global presence spans all seven continents allowing our Cooperative Education employer partners and students alike to gain early access in tapping the increasingly competitive job market on a global stage. Northeastern's vast network yields a multitude of global cooperative education opportunities across all industries and sectors.

By alternating semesters of academic study with periods of full-time work, students are able to transform work across academic and professional contexts. Cooperative Education provides students the opportunity to explore or refine potential career paths, make valuable industry connections, broaden perspectives, and acquire the skills and knowledge needed to succeed—all while learning and growing outside the comfort zone of the classroom.

Source: <https://careers.northeastern.edu/cooperative-education/>



VOX-POP

HOW DO YOU ENVISION THE FUTURE WORK ENVIRONMENT FOR GEN Z?



Khadijah Henry (FELS)

"Health and well-being will be a top priority in the future work environment. Gen Zs will demand workplaces that support mental and physical health, offering benefits like wellness programmes, mental health days, and access to fitness facilities. A focus on well-being will create a more positive and productive work atmosphere."

Kevoi Thompson (SCIT)

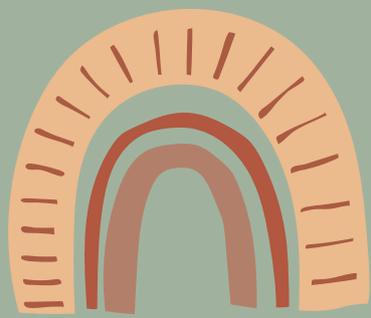
"The future work environment will be significantly influenced by technology, with AI, automation, and digital communication tools enhancing efficiency and collaboration. Virtual and augmented reality could enhance remote collaboration, and Gen Z will thrive in a tech-driven environment requiring innovation."

Xuri Young-Rose (SOBA)

"I think the future work environment for Gen Z is expected to be more flexible, with a focus on remote work and flexible hours, enabling better professional and personal balance. Companies will adopt hybrid models, allowing employees to work from home or in the office as needed, boosting productivity and job satisfaction. "

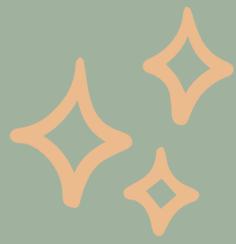
Adyson Williams (FOBE)

"I envision a future work environment that is inclusive and diverse, valuing equality and social justice. Companies should prioritize diversity initiatives and create cultures where all voices are heard and respected, leading to more innovative and creative solutions in the workplace."



FUN ZONE

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



Y N Z D W S B J I N B R X O C
T R E X P E R I E N C E E Z A
C E T A P W T B X E O E E J X
A T Q S Y D U T S L Y R I Q I
I N B M U J T D B J P A F B G
G I T E R D Z T X D L C D C A
A U A F M N N L X W A W J O E
R B S Q U X D I V I J E C O I
C H B T E C A L P K R O W P N
H X E A W O M J N Y P Q R E T
P C Z C S H B T O C K L D R E
H W A V R U A P N N D U V A G
H K E G W A S P V E C O G T R
N L T B L B S S R A D N G I A
P Z O P W Q A I T A I U H V T
S J F X Q E D I R N C J T E E
J Q W H I M O Z R Q N T G S D
X Y Z K B N R A J A M A I C A
L A S T B L E R L T A S V C H
X L P B X L Z A F Q W N H Q E

HIDDEN WORDS

- AMBASSADOR
- EDUCATION
- WORKPLACE
- INDUSTRY
- INTERN
- JOB
- EXPERIENCE
- COOPERATIVE
- UTECH
- STUDY
- STUDENT
- CAREER
- LEARNING
- JAMAICA
- PRACTICE

Become a Student Ambassador!



Ready to level up your university experience and work-readiness? The Co-op Ed unit is thrilled to unveil one of the best opportunities to assist you in becoming that 21st century work-ready leader through its Co-op Ed student Ambassador Programme!

BENEFITS OF JOINING:

- Provision of opportunities for professional networking
- Facilitates the development of lifelong learning skills
- Facilitates a better understanding of career choices and goals
- Enhances interpersonal and communication skills

YOUR ROLE:

- Assist in planning and hosting of Co-op Ed events
- Advise peers on how to improve work readiness and enhance their employability skills
- Promote UTech, Ja. Co-op Ed unit across various social media platform
- Attend meetings and seminars hosted by the Co-op Ed unit

Students who successfully complete the programme will be awarded a Certificate of Participation at the end of the Academic Year.



Requirements

Must be a full-time registered student at the university of Technology Jamaica

Must have good communication and interpersonal skills or a willingness to learn

Must be in second, third or fourth year

Must have a minimum GPA of 2.8

Must demonstrate the ability to exercise positive influence on peers

Must be creative, innovative and willing to take initiative

MEET THE EDITOR



KAYEDIAN WELLINGTON



Second-Year FOSS Student Pursuing a BSc in Actuarial Science

My academic journey has been quite dynamic and has shaped my diverse interests and goals. The journey began with a year of perusing a Bsc. in Applied Science, then later I transferred to Actuarial Science due to its marketability and alignment with my sub-passion for mathematics. This decision has been rewarding, as it combines analytical skills with numbers and problem-solving. Although my ultimate goal is to become a Forensic Pathologist, I see actuarial Science as a crucial stepping stone in my professional

journey. This field provides a robust entry point into the workforce and a strong foundation for future careers.

Co-operative Education Unit

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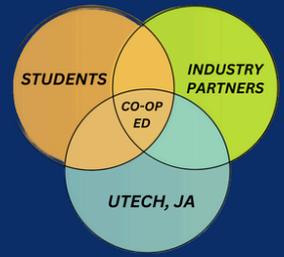
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“PARTNERING WITH INDUSTRY TO PRODUCE WORK-READY GRADUATES”

Summer semester of the 2023-24 Academic year has commenced, and the necessary third and fourth year student are off on their work experience. Some are considering the next steps after graduation, and is grateful for this opportunity to gain professional experience in their field.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can become a Co-op Ed student Ambassador

Inside this issue, is a step-by-step guide on how you can become a confident Co-operative Education (Co-op Ed) Student Ambassador with the Co-opEd unit, nurturing leadership skills, and encouraging impact.

