

# **Increasing Impact and Performance: Directed Experiential Learning Practicum**

Information Session  
March 28, 2023

# Session Agenda

- Experiential Learning at Desautels: Overview
- Course Overview
- Activities FAQ
- Resources for Finding Opportunities
- Q&A

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT DESAUTELS: OVERVIEW

# Experiential Learning Overview

- Student feedback is strongly in support of EL
- Enable all BCom students to do EL
- Increase EL in existing courses through greater engagement with outside organizations
- Create new courses
  - Directed EL
  - Internship course (target Summer 2024)

# COURSE OVERVIEW

## Course Overview: Multiple Objectives

- Key Goal: Help increase the impact of activities students engaged in part-time activities
- The course will focus on three main learning objectives:
  - How to analyse organizations and provide value-added recommendations to improve performance;
  - How to implement meaningful change within an organization; and
  - How to achieve personal growth and performance in a “part-time” work/volunteer context.
- This also includes:
  - Enabling students to learn from the direct connections between their outside activities and their course work
  - Developing transferable skills

# Course Overview: Structure of the Course

- Summer semester: Meeting once per week, 3 hours on Wednesdays from 10:05 – 12:55
  - Runs from May to mid-June
- Fall semester: Meeting twice a week for 1.5 hours, every other week
- Attendance in class is mandatory and includes:
  - Learning from relevant key content
  - Class discussions
  - Personal and group reflection
  - “Live cases”

# Course Overview: Requirements and Applications

- Open to students who have finished their U1 year and above
- Applications approved by add/drop deadline
  - For the Summer Term, applications open April 1<sup>st</sup>
  - For the Fall Term, applications open August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Application requirements include:
  - A description of the proposed internship, extracurricular, or work experience;
  - High level description of the organization;
  - Estimated weekly schedule, amounting to at least 65 hours over the course of the semester;
  - Student's roles and responsibilities; and
  - Outside Confirmation of the activity.



## FAQs: Some Ideal Activities for the Course

- What is the ideal type of activity for this course?
  - The ideal activity is one where students have some degree of familiarity with the activity and are confident they will be able to do the activity while also completing regular coursework.
  - The ideal activity is spread out over the course of the semester and allows students some flexibility in scheduling.
- Can the activity be full time or more than 100 hours?
  - Yes, though students should be mindful of workload and must be able to attend class sessions.

# FAQs: What Types of Activities Count?

- Internships
- Part-time work
- Volunteer work
- Extra-curricular activities in a substantial, leadership role
  - E.g. MUS, Varsity sports, or other recognized undergraduate club leadership roles would count
- Working at an established start-up, even your own start-up, would count IF:
  - You have a working business plan and demonstrated clients AND
  - There are at least 5 people involved in the start-up.

# FAQs: What Doesn't Count

- Case competition participation
  - If you are interested in developing skills for case competitions, take BUSA 399
- Independent projects
- Your own new start up

(All are great experiences though if you're interested)

## FAQs: Possible Considerations

- Can a student be involved with two activities that together add up to the hour requirement?
  - This is handled on a case by case basis and is up to the discretion of the professor.
  - Students should not apply if they are planning on counting more than two activities.
- Can a student switch activities halfway through the semester, while still meeting the hour requirement?
  - Yes, with approval.
- Can an activity extend beyond the length of the course?
  - Yes, with approval that the course deliverables can still be met.

## FAQs: Possible Considerations

- Why is there a 65 hour minimum requirement?
  - This is to ensure that the student is regularly and meaningfully involved in the activity.
- Does the activity need to take place in Montreal?
  - Because attendance is required for the course, students must be local to Montreal to attend class sessions. Students may be engaged in a remote activity, as long as they are able to attend classes in Montreal.

# RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

# Resources and Support

## [Riipen](#) –Level Up

- Remote Internships
- Paid opportunities, up to \$7K
- 2-8 weeks in length on average
- Typically hear back within 2-3 weeks
- Open to Canadian Citizens

# McGill Innovation Fund (MIF) internships

- Part-time summer internships 20h per week, 16\$ per hour
- May 1 – Nov 1, 2023 (variable)
- Contribute to the success of early-stage startups
- Learn new skills while growing the operations of a fledgling company
- Requirements vary, no experience needed
- Register for the networking session April 6, 4:00-7:00pm with employers [here](#)
- More information on the [MIF](#)
- Other questions: [junji.nishihata@mcgill.ca](mailto:junji.nishihata@mcgill.ca)



# MIF Internships

## Primary Responsibilities

Requirements vary from team to team. In general, however, teams are headed by researchers who are transitioning their projects into full-fledged businesses, and thus need support to perform tasks such as:

- Analyzing the market and determining the scale of the opportunity, competition, etc.
- Developing and/or improving communications tools such as PowerPoint presentations, websites, etc.
- Elaborating and/or refining the company's business plan
- Attracting investment from interested parties

## Other Qualifying Skills and/or Abilities

Because these are small projects/companies, interns may be asked to perform a variety of tasks; flexibility and adaptability are desirable qualities. Relevant skills include:

- Web design and programming
- Analytical abilities
- Business experience
- Bilingualism (French-English)

Note that this list is not exhaustive – we encourage all interested candidates to apply. Aptitude, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn are highly valued attributes.

**Minimum Educations & Experience:** No experience necessary, open to current McGill students only

**Hourly wage:** \$16.00/hour

**Hours per Week:** 20 (Part time)

**Start Date:** May 1, 2023

**End Date:** November 1, 2023 (note: start/end dates may vary)

# Career Management at Desautels

## Networking

- Desautels Connect
- Mentorship
- Peers
- ✓ Career Fairs
- ✓ Info Sessions
- ✓ LinkedIn

## Experience/Skills building

- ✓ myFuture
- ✓ Internships (MITACS)
- ✓ Resume Review
- CareerLeader
- Mock Interviews
- Big Interview
- Peer Program
- BCom Portal
- Mentorship
- ✓ VMock
- ✓ Coaching
- ✓ Emzingo

## Job Search

- ✓ myFuture
- ✓ BCom Portal
- ✓ VMock
- ✓ Career Fairs
- ✓ Resume Book
- ✓ LinkedIn

# Career Events (Annual!)



For exact dates keep an eye on the Desautels Career Newsletter we email every Friday or on the [Desautels Career Events webpage](#).