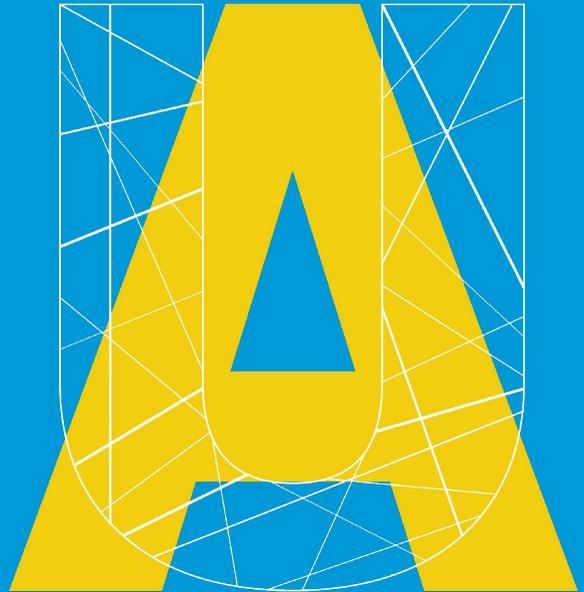


ARTS WORK EXPERIENCE



YEAR-END REPORT

April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

Message from the AWE Working Group

It has been another busy and exciting year for Arts Work Experience (AWE). Even while still adjusting to the various economic challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought, our year-over-year growth and our student and alumni stories demonstrate AWE's impact. As one of the cornerstones of our Faculty's Experiential Learning offerings, AWE continues to provide diverse and enriching opportunities that allow students to put their skills and knowledge to work outside of the classroom. As AWE continues to grow, we are always working to improve and better serve the needs of our students. Contact AWE Working Group members with feedback or ideas, we would love to hear from you!

AWE Working Group Members 2021-2022:

Allen Ball - Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning)

Carrie Smith - Vice-Dean (Faculty of Arts)

Kristy Wuetherick - Senior Office Student Programs and Services

Laura Kerslake - Career Development & Work-Integrated Learning Officer

Christine McManus - Work Experience Coordinator

Claire Wasel - AWE Communications and Program Support Intern

Background

Arts Work Experience (AWE) grew out of the desire by Arts undergraduate students to have an opportunity to gain skills-based professional work experience before graduation. AWE began as a pilot program in 2011 and has since grown significantly with more students joining the program and securing work terms every year.

AWE provides students with the opportunity to apply their academic knowledge in workplace scenarios and to develop professional experience related to their long-term career goals. The work experience model puts the responsibility on the student to set learning objectives, to provide a valuable contribution to an employer and to reflect on how the experience will impact their long term career management. This process is guided and supported by the Faculty of Arts, AWE staff, the U of A Career Centre, our employer partners and Arts students.

Vision

Arts Work Experience programs connect students, employers and community as a first step in achieving individual, educational and organizational success. It launches Arts students as they begin a journey of innovation, problem solving and the exploration of engaged citizenship and career opportunities.

Mission

UAlberta Arts Work Experience programs provide students with a range of meaningful career development and work term opportunities in a supportive environment that builds student confidence in their abilities to achieve academic and career success. It demonstrates the value of an Arts degree, both on and off campus.

AWE Student Stories



Cassandra Pryer (BA History)

Member Experience Specialist & Happiness Advocate
Work Nicer Coworking

“It may seem hard to connect a history degree with working for a startup but at its core I am using the aspects of what I love most about studying history. I was able to constantly research, write, interact with some amazing people and collect the stories of member’s entrepreneurial journeys!”



Evan Haile (BA Economics and Sociology)

Customer Care and Engagement Coordinator
Edmonton Transit Service (ETS) - City of Edmonton

“The truth is, this co-op was one of the best uses of my time. I was able to network, learn more about the industry and – most importantly – develop transferable skills. My biggest advice to students is to trust the process. You will get where you want to be with hard work and consistency.”



Jordan Wong (BA Political Science)

Citizenship Assistant - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

“AWE has been valuable in helping me consider my future career options. My co-op position provided me with the opportunity to take what I have learned in university and apply it outside of the classroom. I have no doubt that the professional skills I have developed – such as communication, technical knowledge, and networking – will be very helpful in preparing me for a career after university.”



Jashan Mahal (BA Psychology)

Undergraduate Psychology Intern - Millard Health

“My co-op experience with Millard Health Workers’ Compensation Board is well aligned with my career goals involving holistic health care. Being an international student working in Canada can be nerve-wracking at first. Even though there are some disadvantages of being an international student, always remember that you bring something unique to the table.”

AWE Students in 2021 – 2022:

WORKED

approximately 59,920 + hours

EARNED

\$1,285,284 + with an average wage of \$21.45 per hour

368

AWE jobs posted (15% increase)

108

Work terms completed (57% increase 2020, 19% increase 2019)

Fine Arts - 0% , Social Sciences - 96%, Humanities - 4%

152

New students accepted into AWE (18% decrease)

Fine Arts - 6% , Social Sciences - 81%, Humanities - 11%, Augustana - 2%

463

Total students enrolled in AWE (44% increase)

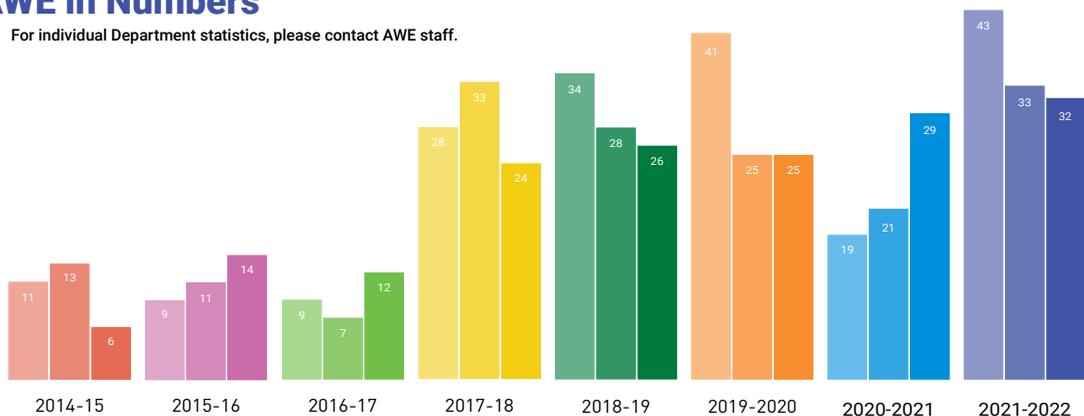
Fine Arts - 6% , Social Sciences - 82%, Humanities - 11%, Augustana- 1%

422

Students registered AWE Information Sessions (52% increase)

AWE in Numbers

★ For individual Department statistics, please contact AWE staff.



★ Internship Program in Psychology (IPP)
Numbers added to AWE

AWE Alumni Stories



Madisen Gee ('21 BA, English)
Communications Coordinator - University of Alberta

"Arts Work Experience gave me the opportunity to not only gain full time experience, but to understand how to build a meaningful and impactful career. My year in AWE changed the way I think about school and allowed me to hone in on my skills and abilities in a different way than what is taught in the classroom. The experience and mentorship I gained has made me confident moving forward in my career, and I am excited to see what the future brings!"



Ahmed Yali ('19 BA, Economics)
Economist - Finance Canada

"My co-op work experience with the federal government developed my ability to seamlessly adapt to changing priorities and build up a knowledge base on different files. AWE provided me with the structure to critically assess my deficiencies and develop plans to achieve my work goals. These strategies remain tremendously useful to me in adapting to new files in my position as an Economist with Finance Canada."



Josef Legaspi ('21 BA, Human Geography)
Sustainability Coordinator, Project Specialist - Explore Edmonton

"My year-long AWE co-op term was extremely valuable in gaining critical work experience, job hunting, and resume and interview skills. Being able to experience a full business cycle, build on my soft skills and really understand a work environment was crucial in transitioning between school and work. My co-op further solidified my interest in tourism and the visitor-based economy. My work is now a healthy intersection of my academic experience and personal interests."



Duncan McCrostie ('19 BA, Political Science & Economics)
Senior Consultant, Peopal Advisory Services- EY, Ernst & Young LLP

"My two co-op terms gave me a sense of the type of work environment and industry I wanted to work in. Through AWE I developed professional work search skills and I learned how to effectively market myself in resumes and cover letters, and interviews to be competitive. Arts graduates have the ability to be interdisciplinary in the way we approach problems. Our research, writing, critical thinking and analysis skills give us an edge."

Year in Review

This year brought some unique challenges for AWE. Employer partners and students were still experiencing disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff changes and fluctuations between in-person and remote service also created some challenges for AWE staff members and students. However, in spite of this, AWE has observed significant growth with work terms secured and student and employer engagement. More students than ever secured work terms, representing an 18% increase in work terms since 2020. AWE has also seen more remote and hybrid positions available for students which created flexible hiring options for not only our students but our employer partners as well.

We continue to refine and expand the use of our data management and program application system, campusBRIDGE. We created new work term labels to better track student course registrations and work terms. We have seen significant growth with new employer partnerships being created which has led to more jobs than ever posted this year, resulting in a 15% increase.

The AWE Working Group continues to evaluate and refine administration, communications and employer relations strategies based on program growth, accreditation requirements and student survey recommendations. Selected highlights are included below.

Administration

- >> Admitted Augustana Arts students for the first time.
- >> Eliminated the use of paper files and collaborated with University Records Office to create records and maintain policies.
- >> Expanded the use of campusBRIDGE to better record and capture student data including intake meeting notes, site visit information and work experience course registrations.

Career Education

- >> Initiated a 30-day check-in with new students that joined AWE to see if they have any questions and have started their Career Education.
- >> Provided resume review support for newly admitted students conducted by the AWE Communications and Program Support Intern.
- >> Continued collaboration with the U of A Career Centre to offer one-on-one Advising Appointments and Career Coaching sessions.

Diversity and Inclusion

- >> Partnered with Indigenous Student Engagement & Recruitment Specialists to offer an Indigenous Student AWE and Career Services Information Session.
- >> Worked with Accessibility Work Experience Program to better address the needs of self-identified students with disabilities.
- >> Collaborated with the Veteran-Friendly Campus program to create a survey and develop the AWE Veteran Part-time Internship program.

Communications and Marketing

- >> Featured 17 AWE student experience stories on Instagram with a unified branded template and used student Instagram takeovers to feature students on work term.
- >> Published AWE alumni feature articles which discussed the challenges of work search in the COVID-19 pandemic and the value of work experience.

Employer Relations and Partnerships

- >> Collaborated and shared best practices and employer contacts with other Co-op and Internship Programs on campus by participating in regular meetings.
- >> Worked with Career Centre staff to further establish employer recruitment and relationship management processes.

Looking Ahead - Goals for 2022 - 2023

- >> Launch the AWE Veteran Part-time Internship Program.
- >> Enroll Campus St. Jean and Native Studies students in AWE.
- >> Rebrand marketing and communications materials to align with the U of A External Relations branding guidelines
- >> Develop a pre-work term e-learning module that outlines the policies and procedures of completing work experience.
- >> Edit and revise the AWE Student Handbook and provide a downloadable version for students to access.
- >> Fully implement other functions of campusBRIDGE such as the events and appointment booking module.

On the Cover

Jean Bruce Rockerfeller Junior Koua (BA Economics)

Student Advisor, Grow West - Western Economic Diversification Canada
Co-op, Responsible Investment - AIMCo

“Joining the AWE program has worked in my favor more than I thought it would. The level of support and understanding I have received in every step of the job search, from receiving an offer to being a full-time employee has exceeded my expectations. The breadth of resources available has prepared me for a competitive labour market, for which I will forever be grateful for.”

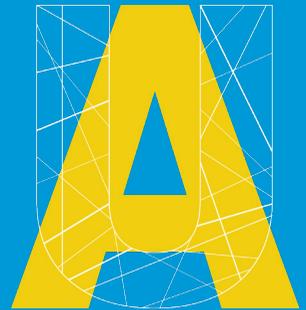


"Participating in Arts Work Experience was one of the best decisions I made while in university. Through AWE, I gained meaningful experience and exposure to different career paths. The program helped me to reflect on my personal goals, and inspired me to pursue a career that I would have never considered otherwise. I am forever grateful for what I got out of AWE and I will take the skills I learned with me into the future."

Jocelynn Proulx, Métis
(21 BA, Criminology)
Policy Analyst, Natural Resources Canada

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