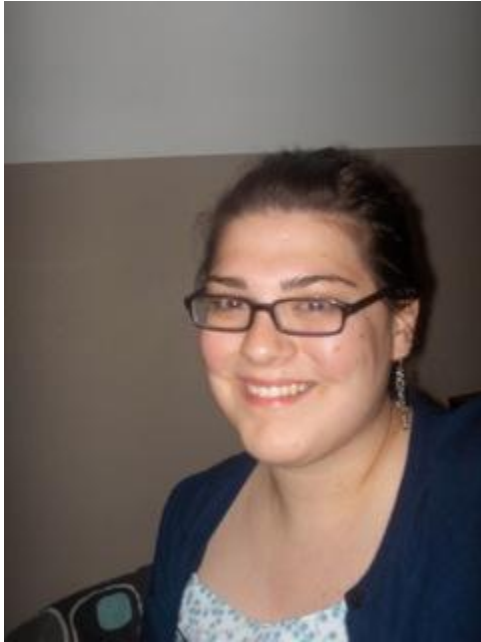




Ama Aidoo is a third year student, majoring in Sociology with a minor in Business Management. During the summer of 2012 Ama worked in the office of the Dean of Arts with the Arts Academic Advisor. Ama recommends the Cooperative Education program to all students"

"It is not just about the work, it is about the experiences, the people and the atmosphere of working in a professional position. I loved every minute of my work at the university this summer. I encourage anyone contemplating this opportunity to experience it. You can never get enough professional work experience before the completion of your degree. ."

## Chloe Gagnon



Chloe registered for the co-op program in her third year as she was looking for a chance to work in her field and gain some work experience. During the summer, Chloe worked for the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women. She collected baseline data from government sources to help the Advisory Council to produce reports on various aspects of women's lives in Nova Scotia. At the end of the summer, the Nova Scotia Advisory Council elected me as her to be one the delegate from Nova Scotia to attend the Atlantic Summer Institute in PEI for the young women in leadership program. Chloe says that:

working for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women opened many doors for me. It gave me the opportunity to apply skills that I learned in the classroom. I was met many other young women leaders in our communities. Thanks to this co-op I was able to learn and experience many new things. I am grateful for this opportunity.

During the fall and winter after he co-op placement, the Advisory Council hired Chloe on a part time basis while she completed her honours thesis.



Harry Ezenibe

Harry worked as a camp counsellor at a summer camp for children with autism. He received training on autism as well as non-violence physical intervention training. As a Camp Counselor he worked one on one with individual campers to ensure a safe, fun, active and enjoyable recreational day camp experience. He had to ensure that all campers were treated with dignity and respect. Harry says that working with the youth “enabled me to understand the lives of those living with autism spectrum disorder and have the opportunity to experience their lives with them.” He says:

I enjoyed the co-op work experience. It was a great experience and opportunity because it enabled me to share my experience and learn more about the Autism community. My focus was to reach out to these youths and their families the best way I can and I am content that I have achieved this focus. I am appreciative of the time, effort and trust the parents and guardians of these youths had in giving me a chance to learn and experience the everyday lives of their children.

## The Impact of Co-op Education on Canadian Graduates' Labour Market Outcomes

Lin, Sweet, and Anisef (2003) analyzed 1997 labour market outcomes of Canadian university graduates who finished their studies in 1995. The data set used was the National Graduate Survey, collected by Statistics Canada, that surveyed 18,995 Canadian graduates. The research contrasted the outcomes in two fields of study: Liberal (humanities, social sciences, natural sciences) and Vocational (applied sciences, commerce, law, etc). Lin, Sweet, and Anisef looked into effects of student participation in the co-op education and found the following results:

**Table 1** Co-op education and labour market outcomes by fields of study

	<i>Liberal</i>		<i>Vocational</i>	
	<i>Participated in a Co-op program?</i>			
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Labour force participation (in %</i>	91.7	87.4	92.9	92.9
<i>Of those employed... per cent working full time (&gt;30 h per week)</i>	95.3	75.5	97.0	84.7
<i>per cent with permanent jobs</i>	83.9	68.3	87.5	71.9
<i>level of job satisfaction</i>				
Very satisfied	52.5	35.6	51.1	46.3
Satisfied	42.4	48.9	41.2	44.1
Dissatisfied or Very dissatisfied	5.0	15.5	7.7	9.5
<i>Average Annual job income</i>	\$29,054	\$19,792	\$31,938	\$27,084
<i>Source: Lin, Sweet, and Anisef (2003). Consequences and Policy Implications for University Students Who Have Chosen Liberal or Vocational Education in Canada: Labour Market Outcomes and Employability Skills. Higher Education Policy 16(1) p. 74.</i>				