Life Beyond Labs & Libraries

Redefining Success

Encourage

Language Matters

Mitacs

www.mitacs.ca
MIKE AT THE CAREER CENTER:
I'll be honest. Mike, it's not a great time for Ph.D.s in the job market right now.

WHEN WAS IT A GOOD TIME?
Well, there was less competition in 1861.

BUT DON'T WORRY. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A NEED FOR PEOPLE WITH ADVANCED DEGREES IN OBSCURE, ESOTERIC FIELDS OF STUDY LIKE YOURSELF.

REALLY?
Sure, you make the rest of us feel useful by comparison.
Redefining Success

I'll be in the Chamber of Understanding!

www.listofimages.com/futurama-cartoon-simple-professor-farnsworth-movies.html
Success ≠ Professorship

“A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and gets to bed at night, and in between he does what he wants to do.”
~Bob Dylan
Courage
Challenges

"When I was talking to my committee about leaving academia they didn’t understand because none of them did that."


Educating for Success

eco*sys*tem: /iːkoʊˌsɪstəm/ noun

: the complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit

Merrill-Webster.com
ecosystem for success

- supervisor
- grad program
- university (SGS, GSA, etc.)
- granting agencies
- scholarly associations
- personal networks
- external partners (e.g., Mitacs, CGS)
- local community
The School of Graduate Studies’ Graduate Professional Skills – or GPS – is a program that focuses on ensuring McMaster grad students are equipped with the skills necessary to achieve success.

We want to help you map your future!

Graduate Studies partners with internal and external organizations to deliver career-planning sessions, professional development workshops and coaching to help students reach their professional goals.

Graduate students have opportunities to learn new skills and enhance those they already possess, helping them to transition from campus labs and libraries to a future career in any sector – academia, industry, government, not-for-profit, or as an entrepreneur.

Graduate Studies offers a variety of programs aimed at helping graduate students enhance and expand their professional skills.

IMPROV-ing Your Presentation Skills

Provides a fun and unique way to learn effective skills – from improvisational theatre pro! This interactive workshop for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows is delivered in partnership with Hamilton’s Theatre Aquarius annually. It’s a great opportunity to enhance:

- listening skills
- spontaneity
- focus
- a sense of play
You're an elephant. On a job hunt.

Improvised exercises help Ph.D. students learn to be 'less cerebral'

BY ALEXANDRA GOMO • It's difficult to keep a phallic shape in a Ph.D. setting, where students are often focused on their research and teaching, but the University of Calgary and the University of Washington are opening "improvisa-tion courses" that are helping students "think on their feet" and hone communication skills.

One course, designed to help students learn to be "less cerebral," is led by Professor Tim Wilson. "It's about learning to think on your feet, to be spontaneous and creative," he says. "It's about learning to be comfortable with uncertainty and to embrace the unknown."
Dine with the Dean

creativity
social innovation
entrepreneurship
teaching & learning
story telling
social networking
dealing with media
work-life balance...
Community Engagement & Leadership

Dig with the Dean
ARCH
SPICES
Snapshot 2013

- 50+ University Partners
- 900+ Industry Partners
- $10.4M Private Sector Investment
- 1700+ Research Internships
- 260+ Professional Skills Workshops
- 6300+ Students Career-Ready
in person workshops
business environment
communication
entrepreneurial thinking
project management
grad student internships
all disciplines
$15k/4 months up to $2M+
multiple opportunities
2 year PDF
$57.5k/year
linking Uni & industry
any discipline
Mitacs Accelerate: Impact on Former Interns
Longitudinal study results, April 2014

Mitacs Accelerate is a research internship program delivering results for over 10 years.

1. Impact on academic experience and skill development

- 96% would recommend Mitacs Accelerate to fellow graduate students and professionals.
- Availability of professional experience.
- An expanded professional network.
- Most interns leave employable and articulate a better ability to pursue the program through...

2. Impact on employment

- 46% of all accelerates went on to new or increased employment in the private sector, while 19% moved to a new position in the company.
- 51% working in industry.
- 14% have started their own company.
- 67% working in an R&D environment.

3. Impact on retention

- 91% currently live in Canada.
- 87% believe that they gained a Mitacs Accelerate experience that enhanced their satisfaction with their jobs in Canada.
- 93% would recommend Mitacs Accelerate to students from their home country that pursue a Mitacs Accelerate internship in Canada.

About the Survey:
The survey was completed on 200 former interns from October 2012 to November 2013. The response rate was 80%.
Mitacs Accelerate: Impact on Former Interns
Longitudinal study results, April 2014

Mitacs Accelerate is a research internship program delivering results for over 10 years.

1. Impact on academic experience and skill development

- 96% would recommend Mitacs Accelerate to fellow graduate students and postdocs.
- Acquisition of professional experience
- An expanded professional network
- Most interns feel more employable and attribute a better starting position to the program through...

2. Impact on employment

- 46% of Accelerate interns currently working in the private sector were hired by their partner companies.
- 51% working in industry
- 14% have started their own company
- 67% working in an R&D environment
- Former interns

3. Impact on retention

- 91% currently live in Canada
- 87% believe their participation in Mitacs Accelerate has increased their satisfaction with their stay in Canada
- 93% would recommend to students from their home country that they participate in a Canadian industrial research internship program

Did you know?
Results suggest that Mitacs Accelerate is responsible for the creation of 200 new R&D jobs annually.

ABOUT THE SURVEY
The survey was available online from October 31st to November 29th, 2013. 696 former interns from 9 provinces and 44 Canadian universities responded to this survey, an overall response rate of 77%.

www.mitacs.ca evaluation@mitacs.ca
www.mitacs.ca
GPS
Ontario Consortium for Graduate Professional Skills

McMaster University
Queen's University
uOttawa
University of Guelph
Western
University of Waterloo

www.MyGradSkills.com
- 18 on-line modules:
  - teaching & learning
  - research & academic ethics
  - communication
  - entrepreneurship
  - community engagement
  - mental health & wellness
  - intercultural competency
  - career development
  - information clearinghouse
  - blogs
  - discussion panels & more
  - coming September, 2014!
www.MyGradSkills.com

- 18 online modules:
  - teaching & learning
  - research & academic ethics
  - communication
  - entrepreneurship
  - community engagement
  - mental health & wellness
  - intercultural competency
  - career development

- information clearinghouse
- blogs
- discussion panels & more
- coming September, 2014!
Common Challenge #1

1. REWRITE RESEARCH QUESTION?
2. CHANGE DATA COLLECTION METHOD?
Unit 2: Opportunity Identification

BUSINESS IDEA
Principles

YOUR SOLUTION MUST SOLVE A GAP OR A PAIN
The Online Learner

Read the following profiles of two typical online students.

Rachel

Rachel is a 20 year old undergraduate Arts and Business student in her second year at university. Most of her courses were on-campus, but while on her co-op term last summer, she enrolled in her first fully online course. This experience allowed her to reduce her course load in the following academic term and to take on a part-time job at a local restaurant. She logged onto the course most days after work and on the weekends. She enjoyed the experience of learning online; the ability to review course content at any time and any place was extremely convenient for her. This term, Rachel has enrolled in another online course. Taking both on-campus and online courses took some getting used to but Rachel found that scheduling set times every week to work on the course was a good strategy for keeping up with her workload. (Image source: ©Thinkstock, Inc.)

Stephen

Stephen is a part-time graduate student at university and a full-time employee with Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. After moving into a leadership role with the Ministry, Stephen applied to a Masters program. As a 42 year old mid-career professional, Stephen was interested in the program for many reasons including the convenience of earning a graduate degree online and the university's reputation of excellence in applied health sciences and public health management. Stephen lives in Northern Ontario with his wife and their two sons. According to Stephen, the greatest benefit of his experience with online learning is the connections he is forging with public health professionals across Canada and around the world. (Image source: ©Thinkstock, Inc.)

While these profiles provide only a small glimpse into the life of an online learner, they do suggest that people who take online courses do so for a variety of reasons. Most like the flexibility of learning when it fits in their calendar, the ability to review course materials at a convenient time and the opportunity to share experiences with a diverse student population. Fully online courses should be designed and delivered with these unique characteristics and expectations in mind.

In addition, “learners have different capacities for making decisions regarding their own learning” (Moore & Kearsley, 2005, p. 228). For example, some adult learners may be highly independent, choosing their own learning path. Undergraduate students, on the other hand, may require more structure and guidance with their learning so the online instructor or teaching assistant will need to provide more guidance through the duration of the course offer. Courses and programs may be designed with this in mind and students may come to a learning experience with differing needs and aspirations. Instructors and TAs should be prepared to adjust their online teaching behavior...
www.MyGradSkills.com

- 18 on-line modules:
  - teaching & learning
  - research & academic ethics
  - communication
  - entrepreneurship
  - community engagement
  - mental health & wellness
  - intercultural competency
  - career development
  - information clearinghouse
  - blogs
  - discussion panels & more
  - coming September, 2014!
serving the world, not only for Ontario

sustainability plan to enable:
content partners
global access
language translation, etc.
Hi, can I help you?

W ell, you've come to the right place! Welcome to the Career Services Center!

We have hundreds of job opportunities available. People are literally throwing themselves to hire graduates of this university...

...unless you're a Ph.D.

UH... computer science?

Actually, sorry, we're closed.

MyGradSkills.com
@GPSkills
#GradProSkills

www.mitacs.ca
@discovermitacs

Allison Sekuler
deangrad@mcmaster.ca
@asek47
@mcmastersgs
References & Resources


http://heqco.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/AT%20Issue%20Doctoral%20ENGLISH.pdf


https://www.MyGradSkills.ca

http://fromphdtoLife.com/
Life Beyond Labs & Libraries