Developing Work Experience While at BCIT

Employers know that new grads don't often have direct paid work experience in their field. Many employers consider other types of experience when evaluating a candidate. The following are ideas for building relevant skills and experience while in school to enhance your resume and give you accomplishments to tell employers about during networking and interview conversations.

ON CAMPUS

Student Clubs
Clubs with academic or industry focus: find out when elections are happening to join the board and practice hands-on skills.
https://www.bcitsa.ca/campus-life/clubs/

Student Initiative Fund
BCIT and BCITSA provide funding for extracurricular activities that enhance your knowledge and personal development.
https://www.bcitsa.ca/programs-sevices/awards/

Innovation Challenge
This on campus competition is presentation-based that supports students to develop applied research or entrepreneurial ideas. Cash prizes are awarded!
https://www.bcit.ca/innovate/

Riipen
BCIT and BCITSA have a subscription with Riipen for specific Experiential Learning opportunities, but there are also open challenges by employers that students can participate in.
https://riipen.com/

Student Life Ambassadors
Develop key soft skills and contribute to ideas on the service and resources available at BCIT.
https://www.bcit.ca/welcome/studentlifeambassadors/

Link Magazine
Writers, bloggers, graphic designers, and photographers wanted! Link Magazine is BCIT's student-made publication that pays money for freelance contributors.
https://www.linkbcit.ca/get-involved/

Peer Tutoring

Helping others learn is a great way to demonstrate your own expertise in the subjects you have studied at BCIT, while also developing teaching, communication, and other soft skills.

https://www.bcit.ca/learningcommons/peer/

Peak Leadership and IxL conference

BCITSA runs a free Leadership Program and annual conference for BCIT students to develop their professional skills.

https://www.bcitsa.ca/student-services/leadership-development/

BCITSA Mentorship Program

There are Career and Entrepreneurial mentorship streams for current students who have clear career or business goals to be paired with an industry professional for guidance.

https://www.bcitsa.ca/student-services/mentorship/

BCITSA Internship Program

This program is designed to assist BCIT graduates to gain professional work experience and support employers in recruiting BCIT talent. More about the program and application form:

Online Internship Application Form

BCITSA Entrepreneurship

In addition to the suite of services offered under BCITSA e-Ship, Matchboard and the Intrapreneur Edge Program both offer experiential learning opportunities.

https://www.bcitsa.ca/beaboss/

Practicums, Internships, and Co-ops

Some programs at BCIT have a specific work experience component. Check your program description or speak with your program area staff and faculty to find out of you do.

https://www.bcit.ca/co-op/

OFF CAMPUS

Student Employment Initiatives with Government of Canada
Programs for summer jobs and other initiatives, like the Federal Student Work Program, take applications at different times of year. Get familiar with those programs and application deadlines:
https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/opportunities/student.html

Skilled Volunteering
Many non-profit organizations need skilled help in their professional operations, often with a low time commitment that still provides an opportunity for hands on practice.
- Go Volunteer: https://www.govolunteer.ca/volunteer-opportunities
- Charity Village: https://charityvillage.com/app/
- Free Geek: https://www.freegeekvancouver.org/
- Vancouver Community Network: https://www2.vcn.bc.ca/
- Habitat for Humanity: https://www.habitatgv.ca/

Volunteer at an industry conference (search online for upcoming events)

Case Competitions and Hackathons
There are a variety of industry-specific competitions that challenge students to use their new skills in a hands-on project.
https://www.hackathon.com/city/canada/vancouver/2019