

STAT 180 - Report 1

Speaker: Stuart Billings

In Tuesday's lecture, we had Stuart as our guest and he talked mainly about the Data Science co-op program in SFU. He clarified what co-op program is, why we need co-op, the benefits and advantages about co-op, the requirement of co-op and what you can contribute from it. Basically, co-op is the program which integrates related work experience with our academic studies. It gives us a full-time paid job which facilitates a process of self-learning. We choose co-op because it brings a lot of benefits. Financial support of our education is one of them. Before co-op, we can access so many quality, paid full-time job in other places in BC, or Canada, or many other places in the world. During the co-op term, we can also build a network of contacts, develop excellent resumes and gain interviews experience is also a benefit. There are 5 requirements for being enrolled in a co-op program. First of all, we need to submit the application at least 2 semesters before the desired co-op term. Secondly, we should have enough knowledge to support our job which required us 30-80 units of credits in SFU. The last year co-op is not suggested because of the tough school work. Then, there is a \$139/\$359 application fee applied. Lastly, we should be in a good academic standing and be willing to relocate and accept the challenges. The most attractive part of this speech is the contribution part. We can be motivate, initiative, enthusiasm and more flexible in the future life. Learning organizational and time management skill is also important in working and studying.

I realized how important to be enrolled in a co-op program although I was in my 4th year already. I am appreciate Stuart to come and talk about this program will us. At last of lecture, some students shared their experience about their co-op and interview experiences, which was quite helpful for me. I would love to talk to them about this again after lecture next time.