Tips from a Dal CS Alum

Making the most out of your university experience

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Who am I?

- O How I got into Computer Science?
- Bachelor CS Dal (2015) + Math + Music
- © Co-op (GoInstant, SimplyCast, T4G)
- After Graduation (T4G, Harbr)

Tips on:

- Which courses to take?
- © Getting help in classes
- Societies
- © Co-op
- Networking
- Building your brand
- Working after graduation
- Using your degree after graduation



- What are you interested in?
- Tech (eg: web/ai/gaming/networks)
- Non-tech (eg: business/science/arts)
- Map out your semesters now!

Certificates

- Specialize in an area
 - Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems
 - Communication Technologies and Cyber
 Security
 - Data Science
 - Graphics, Gaming, and Media
 - User Experience Design and Evaluation
 - Web & Mobile Development



- Which ones helped me most?
 - Mobile Computing
 - Server-side scripting
- Which do I recommend?
 - Community Outreach
- Non-tech electives (music XY courses)

Help!

- © CS Learning Center
- Writing Center (Killam)
- Math Learning Center (Chase)
- Help from classmates (but don't plagiarize)
- Help from profs/TAs/labs/tutorials
- Try to answer the question before asking someone else

Manage Workload

- Find a good space you can concentrate
 - Staying at school to get work done
- Prioritize what's due first/which will take the most time/which is worth the most
- Time boxing tasks Pomodoro technique

Societies

- WiTS (FCS)
- CS Society (FCS)
- © CSGS (FCS)
- O DalDance Society
- O DSU App find a society to join
- OR START YOUR OWN!





Co-op Program

- What is it?
- O How does it work?
- O How to prepare
 - Communications course
 - Reflect on the projects you've completed
 - Start making a list of skills that you've been learning
 - Source control Github is your friend
 - Interviews/Mock Interviews (Co-op office)

| CO-OP SEQUENCE | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| Term | Туре | |
| 2010 - Fall | S-1-Study | |
| 2011 - Winter | S-2-Study | |
| 2011 - Summer | OFF-Vacation | |
| 2011 - Fall | S-3-Study | |
| 2012 - Winter | S-4-Study | |
| 2012 - Summer | W-1-Work | Golnstant / Head Office |
| 2012 - Fall | S-5-Study | |
| 2013 - Winter | S-6-Study | |
| 2013 - Summer | W-2-Work | Simplycast Interactive Marketing Ltd / Head Office |
| 2013 - Fall | S-7-Study | |
| 2014 - Winter | S-8-Study | |
| 2014 - Summer | W-3-Work | T4G Limited / Halifax Office |
| | S-9-Study | |

Co-op Jobs



- Golnstant HTML/CSS/JS (frontend)
- SimplyCast PHP/JS/CSS (both)
- T4G ASP.NET/C# (backend)
- Find out:
 - Company size (small/medium/large)
 - Company environment
 - What kind of work do you like?

Networking

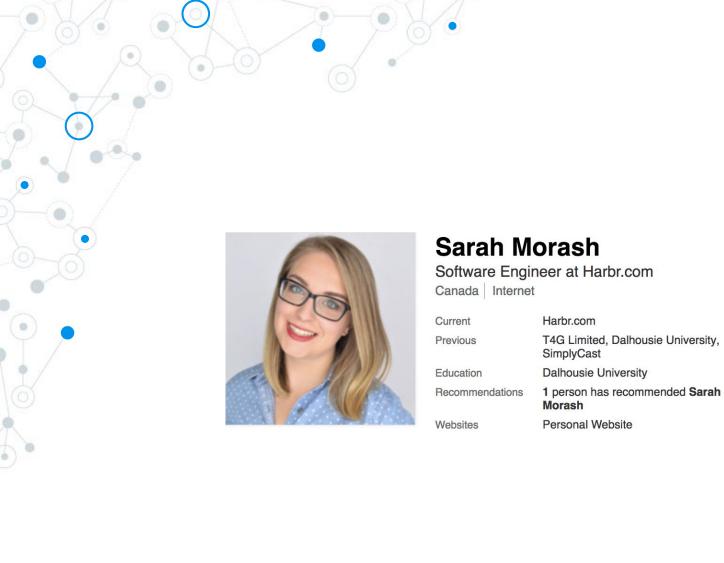


- LinkedIn keep up to date & ensdorse
- © Events We Talk Tech
- © Conferences Grace Hopper
- O Dal/NS Career Fairs
- Follow Tech Influencers

Personal Brand

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- LinkedIn Profile
- Social Media
- Headshot IrisBooth, Events
- Portfolio Github
- Portfolio Website https://web.cs.dal.ca/~[CSUserName]



After Graduation

- Co-op is key can help you get a fulltime job!
- © Experience over grades
- O Update your resume (& revisit your brand)
- Networking can help you land a job!



- - (CMS Development, backend) 4 years
- Harbr Retail Construction Platform
 - (WordPress & React Development, frontend) 2 months

Taking Your Skills from Classroom to the Workplace

- Backend perspective T4G
 - Making AJAX requests and receiving JSON objects
 - Working with a database
- © Frontend perspective Harbr
 - Good knowledge of JS React, React Native
 - Good knowledge of CSS, how to quickly mock things up and make them look good and responsive on the page

A few final things...

- Keep on the lookout for bursaries/awards/scholarships!
- Keep your mental health
 - Sleep
 - Eat/exercise
 - Relax, have fun!
- Everyone can write code be respectful and inclusive





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