

Tips from a Dal CS Alum

Making the most out of
your university experience

Sarah Morash





Who am I?

- © 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



Courses

- © 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



Elective Courses

- © 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)
- © DalDance Society
- © DSU App - find a society to join
- © OR START YOUR OWN!

W♀TS

CSGS
Computer Science Graduate Society



Co-op Program



- ◎ What is it?
- ◎ How does it work?
- ◎ 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	Type	
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
2014 - Fall	S-9-Study	



Co-op Jobs



- ◎ GoInstant - 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 & endorse
- © Events - We Talk Tech
- © Conferences - Grace Hopper
- © Dal/NS Career Fairs
- © Follow Tech Influencers

Personal Brand



- © LinkedIn Profile
- © Social Media
- © Headshot - IrisBooth, Events
- © Portfolio - Github
- © Portfolio Website

[https://web.cs.dal.ca/~\[CSUserName\]](https://web.cs.dal.ca/~[CSUserName])



Sarah Morash

Software Engineer at Harbr.com

Canada | Internet

Current	Harbr.com
Previous	T4G Limited, Dalhousie University, SimplyCast
Education	Dalhousie University
Recommendations	1 person has recommended Sarah Morash
Websites	Personal Website



After Graduation

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



My Tech Career

- © T4G - IT Consulting Company
 - (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

Questions?



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