



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT



University of  
Pittsburgh

Swanson School  
of Engineering



## SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS

The Swanson School of Engineering's Office of Experiential Learning & Professional Engagement (ELPE) can connect you with engineering and technical talent to meet your cooperative education and internship needs whether in the U.S. or world-wide. Housed in the Swanson School of Engineering, our office collaborates with faculty to engage students both academically and professionally so that students are prepared to connect with industry and alumni partners in meaningful work experiences.

Our goal is to help students explore and grow their personal and professional interests, while also linking our employer partners with the next generation of talent. Our office provides you with a direct connection to motivated students and our university while enhancing your brand visibility.

Whether you have an established co-op or internship program, or are looking to build one, we can assist!



### **We work with undergraduate and graduate students from the following areas of study:**

- Bioengineering
- Chemical and Petroleum Engineering
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science/Information Science\*
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering Science
- Industrial Engineering
- Materials Science Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

*\* denotes undergraduate in co-ops only*



## COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our cooperative education program is structured as two full-time work rotations (six months each); this allows our undergraduate students to devote significant time accomplishing employer goals. Working a spring/summer term (January–June) or a summer/fall term (June or July–December) allows the student to meaningfully contribute to projects and engineering/business needs. Co-op positions are compensated and available for both domestic and global locations, and applicable for industry and research positions. Co-op offers managers a cost-effective way to “try it before you buy it,” evaluate student qualifications in real time, and project a future role for your organization. Most importantly, the annual percentage for full-time offers from our graduating co-ops are more than half, with acceptances in the 75 percent range.

Students also gain academic credit through co-op and maintain full-time student status, all while gaining experience and competitive wages. Supervisors or mentors will be asked to complete an end-of-rotation evaluation. Although not mandatory, nearly half of our undergraduates prefer to co-op.

Students can work two 6-month rotations with the same employer, or explore a different experience with another company. All employers may also capitalize on employing a student for a longer period to maximize the efforts of on-boarding and training for future employment.

International graduate students are able to complete a summer-only or extended co-op through the program, which doesn’t require sponsorship while on a work rotation.







Development

Skills  
visibility

resources  
flexible



#### **BENEFITS OF HIRING A CO-OP FROM PITT**

- Students are available for longer, consecutive timeframes to support projects and business needs.
- Students bring different perspectives, ideas, and technical skill sets to the workplace.
- Employers contribute to a student's professional development with the ability to offer a full-time position after graduation.
- Your company can boast affiliation with an academic program within the University of Pittsburgh, with the opportunity to explore in-depth research partnerships.
- International graduate and undergraduate students do not require direct corporate sponsorship as a co-op student. Students apply for CPT (curriculum practical training) and obtain work authorization through the program.
- Increase visibility while gaining direct access to future employees who will require minimal onboarding.
- No strict recruiting schedules to follow as our timelines are flexible and we can advertise various needs.



## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Hiring students for internships is another flexible recruiting option through the ELPE office. Students can work 10- to 12-week, paid, full-time internships during the summer months. We can advertise your needs to both undergraduate and graduate engineering students, allowing you to reach the prospective employee you want to hire at domestic or international locations.

Our students bring cutting edge technology training, fresh perspective, enthusiasm, and talent to the job site, all of which contribute to achieving your company's goals. Additionally, we work closely with employers to help refine our engineering curriculum for the employees they need.

## EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

In addition to connecting students with industry opportunities like co-op and internships, the Swanson School of Engineering offers three other experiential education resources: global education programs, student research, and service learning. These experiences can be completed in a domestic or global context.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

Benefit from building a relationship with our team and gain direct access to Pitt's engineering and science talent. We can assist you with advertising positions, on-campus or virtual recruiting and interviews, information sessions, front-loading resumes, and connecting you with our student organizations, faculty, and other Swanson School resources.

Alumni are especially welcome to reconnect and "give back" to their alma mater by providing mentoring, mock interviews, presentations, and career insight to support and develop our next generation of Pitt engineers. These opportunities are possible either in person or virtually – our IT team can provide the connections you require.





**Feel free to contact the ELPE office for more information or to advertise a co-op or internship position (domestic or global)!**

Our staff can also keep you updated on ELPE events, program information, and success stories

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