
BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Advanced Education

ACCELERATE BC – GRADUATE RESEARCH INTERSHIP PROGRAM

About ACCELERATE BC:

- ACCELERATE BC is an internship program that connects B.C. businesses with graduate student interns and their professors to help create innovative business practices, products and solve ongoing industry challenges.
- It grew out of an existing internship program in the mathematical sciences operated by Burnaby-based research network, MITACS. The additional \$10 million in provincial funding has allowed the program to expand to include diverse disciplines and to provide more than 650 internships over the next four years.
- For B.C. graduate students, it provides unique opportunities to apply their skills to challenges faced by business in B.C. and a way to develop professional relationships outside of academia.

How ACCELERATE BC works:

- Most internships are four months in length, though some can be longer.
- Graduate student interns spend half of their time over the four-month internship period on site with a B.C. company doing research for the mutually agreed upon project. The balance of their time is spent back at their university, developing the techniques required to accomplish the project's goals.
- Each four-month internship is co-funded by the partner company and MITACS, through the support of the Ministry of Advanced Education, with each party contributing \$7,500.

Examples of internships:

- A University of Victoria mechanical engineering graduate student undertook a four-month internship with Pemberton-based SyncWave Energy to further develop the company's prototype wave power generator, which will produce green energy for isolated coastal communities and off-shore installations.
- A mathematics graduate student from Simon Fraser University spent four months with Vancouver, B.C.-based video game developer, Radical Entertainment, researching the optimal balance of physics and aesthetics to create realistic water and smoke simulations in the company's games.

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