Interested in working out of province or in another country?

Here’s what two Asper co-op students are doing to ring in the New Year!

Tell us where you are going to work and what you will be doing?

Keith Mozden, MIS major – I’ll be working at Research in Motion (RIM), makers of the Blackberry, in Mississauga, Ontario. At RIM I will be a Desktop Support Specialist, assisting the Information Technology (IT) team in dealing with support questions. I will be taking ownership of certain support issues and finding solutions for those issues.

Selena Kasdorf, Finance major - I will be working in London, England at the Royal Bank of Canada as an Investment Banking Analyst within their investment banking division.

What was the recruitment process like for you?

Keith - Since RIM is a highly recognized global company, the recruitment process was really competitive. I had applied previously at RIM but wasn’t successful. Since I was determined to work there, I decided to focus on getting a better understanding of the company. I reviewed RIM’s website and read many different articles about the corporate culture and their products. After, I felt like I had gained a better understanding of the company. I felt more prepared for the interview and was much more confident in myself. The research must have paid off, since I got the offer from RIM the day after the interview. The only difference in the out of town RIM recruitment process was that I had a phone interview instead of an in-person interview and all of the communications were done via email.

Selena - I worked for RBC Toronto during my second work term, and when the time came to do my review I expressed interest in working at their London office for my next work term. At first they were hesitant because London doesn't take coop students, but they recommended me nonetheless. After 5 months of waiting (seriously) and much emailing back and forth with the London office, I found out that I got the job!

What are you most looking forward to and what are you most nervous about?

Keith - The thing I'm most nervous about is not knowing anyone in Toronto. At first it may be overwhelming, but I plan to join some clubs and the local YMCA to meet new people. I'm sure I'll build friendships at work as well. I'm most excited about living independently. I've lived with my mom for my whole life, so this will be a major change. I'm a pretty independent person, so if I do encounter any problems, I should be able deal with them.

Selena - I am definitely most excited about going to London itself. To work and to live in another country and culture is going to be such an amazing experience.
**Do you have any tips/advice for students looking to secure out of town co-op placements?**

**Keith** - When speaking with the RIM interviewer, I felt he wanted to know that I was serious about relocating for the term. What I recommend doing before the interview is research where you are going to live, how much it is going to cost, and how you are going to get to work. I'd also recommend looking at maps of the area and becoming familiar with it.

**Selena** - It’s 100% in your hands; you can get anything you want if you try hard enough. If you want an out of town placement, you can get it. It definitely takes a lot of work and persistence though. When I first asked to go to London, the managers in Toronto told me it would never happen. It took 5 months of persistence to secure this placement. But it’s most definitely worth it.

**What are you hoping to learn from your upcoming out of town co-op experience?**

**Keith** - Since this will be my first co-op work term with a private company, I'm hoping to learn about the differences in how they run their business compared to the public sector. I'm also looking forward to learning more about RIM’s products and operations.

**Selena** - I'm hoping to get a better understanding of how finance works in other countries. International finance has always fascinated me and I'm excited to be able to work in Europe's financial center.

**Anything else you want to tell students?**

**Keith** - If you do secure an out of town work term in another province, make sure you research the province’s policy on vehicle insurance and driver licensing. Some provinces require you to possess their provincial vehicle insurance and driver’s license while working in their province. Good luck!

Co-op students have worked successfully in provinces across the country and in the United States, China and Chile.

So whether you are in co-op or not, or are just about to graduate, join the growing numbers of students experiencing fantastic opportunities to learn and grow professionally away from home! Come see an advisor at the CDC for further resources.

**Stay tuned for a follow up interview with Selena and Keith when they return to Asper.**