“Research cooperative education offers undergraduate and graduate students the chance to work side-by-side with outstanding faculty from across the campus and with community partners in all areas of research.”

— Prof. Julie Chen, Vice Provost for Research

“I had high expectations for the Co-op Scholars Program and it was even better than I expected.”

— Tyler Puleo, Computer Science/Electrical Engineering, College of Science and College of Engineering

CONTACT US:

Adrianna Morris  
Director Research Co-ops  
Adrianna_Morris@uml.edu  
978-934-2898

Vanessa Farzner  
Coordinator, Community Co-ops  
Vanessa_Farzner@uml.edu  
978-934-4996

Jennifer Keene-Crouse  
Student Success Coordinator, Health Sciences  
Jennifer_KeeneCrouse@uml.edu

Michelle Smith  
Senior Associate Director, Financial Aid  
Michelle_Smith@uml.edu
**WHAT IS A CO-OP SCHOLAR?**

Co-ops are a great way for ambitious students to integrate their classroom studies with paid professional work experiences.

UMass Lowell’s Co-op Scholars Program is offered to a select group of merit scholarship recipients identified by university deans during the admissions process. Accepted incoming freshmen receive a letter notifying them that they have received this award for $4,000.

The program allows students from five colleges to work in research or community co-ops — either on campus with a faculty or staff member, in the Lowell community with an advisor, or at the Natick Army Research Labs — during the summer following their freshman year or during their sophomore year.

Co-op Scholars may elect to apply their $4,000 scholarship toward an approved UMass Lowell study abroad program. By connecting with new cultures and experiencing the world, their studies gain in invaluable global context.

Co-op Scholars must maintain full-time status and meet the cumulative GPA requirement noted in their co-op/merit scholarship offer letter to remain eligible for the opportunity.

**HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS**

Co-op Scholars are contacted during the fall/spring of their freshman year to begin the process of applying online for a co-op position or choosing a study abroad opportunity.

Co-op Scholars receive a $4,000 stipend paid in biweekly increments.

Co-op Scholars have the opportunity to present their research and community co-op initiatives during the annual Co-op Scholar Poster Presentation event.

The Co-op Scholars opportunity cannot be deferred to another semester or summer term. Students who do not utilize the opportunity during the summer immediately following their freshman year or during their second year at the university forfeit the co-op funds.

**WHAT CO-OP SCHOLARS SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES**

“I was very fortunate to have been able to work with Dr. Gu and Dr. Gao this summer and develop laboratory, research and professional skills as a freshman. Not only did I learn about working with nanomaterials, but I also feel that the Co-op Scholar Program has prepared me for future work and academic opportunities.”

— Ashly Tran, Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering
“This co-op was definitely inspiring! It’s one thing to go to classes and ‘do good’ for your major, it’s another to experience firsthand the jobs that are available because of that major. Although I’ve confirmed that I don’t want to do research, learning more about a sector of physical therapy was totally worth my summer and, of course, the extra cash was a nice incentive, too!”

— Yonnie Collins, Exercise Physiology, College of Health Sciences

“My experience with the Co-op Scholarship Program helped me understand what it is like being a graphic designer in the field by working with real clients. It has also answered lingering questions of what is expected of me from a job.”

— Melanie DesRoches, Graphic Design, Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

“My co-op experience was really fantastic and I’m so glad that I had the opportunity to do it. I learned loads more than I would have sitting in a classroom and got tons of hands-on engineering experience. Most importantly, it was really, really fun and interesting. Being able to tell people that I worked on NASA research as a freshman is pretty cool.”

— Colin Senechal, Plastics Engineering, College of Engineering

“Throughout my time at the Natick Army Research Center, I gained valuable experience both as a chemist and an adult. I learned new techniques such as fiber extrusion, knitting and various analytical techniques. This was my first real job away from home and it gave me some insight on how the real world works.”

— Thomas DiPasquale, Chemistry, College of Science
“I used to think study abroad was not for everyone, but people like me stand to benefit the most from it. This is an experience everyone should have to prepare for life after college.”

— Matthew Cronin, Management, Manning School of Business

“I studied European art history in six countries during my four weeks abroad. Instead of learning from afar, I found myself immersed in the different cultures and the old worlds of ancient, recent, and modern art. I would never have had this amazing experience without my co-op scholarship.”

— Andréa DeLisle, Graphic Design, Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

“Learn more about the Co-op Scholars Program at www.uml.edu/BeyondU/coops/Co-op-Scholars/co-op-scholars.aspx

“I had the best time of my life and met amazing people from all over the world. It was nothing like America and I highly suggest anyone that gets the opportunity to go do it.”

— Colleen Franks, Management, Manning School of Business

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CO-OP SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT
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