

ArtSci Student's Internship Has Positive "(e)AFFECT" on Her Career Goals

By Leigh Cameron (BAH'18)



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My first week as an intern with the Office of the Vice-Principal (Research) (OVPR) at Queen's University was completely nerve-racking. Having only ever worked part-time and summer jobs, the 16 months ahead of me were daunting. Now in the final months of my internship, I am thrilled I took the leap and worked as the Special Projects Intern in my department. The relationships and skills I have built throughout my internship have shaped my future career goals and given me a sense of confidence I could not have found elsewhere.

I came to Queen's intent on becoming an English Major, and I took a Minor in Global Development Studies as well. I loved all of my courses, but I still did not have a clear sense of what kind of occupation interested me the most. When the opportunity arose to take on a QUIP placement, I jumped at the chance. I had always enjoyed writing and editing different types of articles, and this internship with the OVPR would give me the opportunity to develop those skills in a professional environment. Its focus on research communications and promotions activities seemed to align perfectly with the skills I hoped to improve.

Throughout my internship, I have not only become a better writer and editor, but also a better speaker and administrator. I have had chances to work with the amazing researchers at Queen's in many different capacities, and I have enjoyed watching my level of responsibility in my office grow.

One of the largest projects I have been able to work on has been the production of the Queen's research magazine (e)AFFECT. By working on several issues of (e)AFFECT, I have been given an inside look at how to coordinate an entire publication. I have written several articles on researchers geared towards external audiences, and I have improved my ability to edit and proofread the magazine's content. Being a published writer in multiple issues of the magazine is something I am very grateful for. I have also learned about the production side of the magazine, from conception all the way to distribution. The tremendous variety of research happening at Queen's has kept me in constant awe.

I also have had the opportunity to work on other projects that involve writing and editing, including a quarterly newsletter for my portfolio and various institutional award nominations for Queen's faculty. These chances to flex my writing muscles have made me a more concise, clear writer, which is a skill that will translate back into my academic studies and my future career.

My internship has also allowed me to coordinate and promote various events at Queen's. Event planning was entirely new to me, and assisting with everything from research funding announcements to writing retreats has allowed me to improve my time management, organizational, and interpersonal skills. I have been very lucky to be able to meet faculty members and other community members at these events who have opened my eyes to the types of professions that exist beyond my undergraduate world.

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I have had wonderful mentors and team members throughout my internship, and they have all helped me grow in different ways. Everyone has been supportive when I had questions or concerns, and been ready to lend a hand when I needed to carry banners or framed photographs across campus! I could not have asked for a better team. My supervisor has also made a huge impact on my internship. She has helped me grow comfortable in a professional setting and has trusted me with more responsibility as my time here has gone on. She has also encouraged me to explore different aspects of Queen's and was receptive to any ideas I brought to the table.

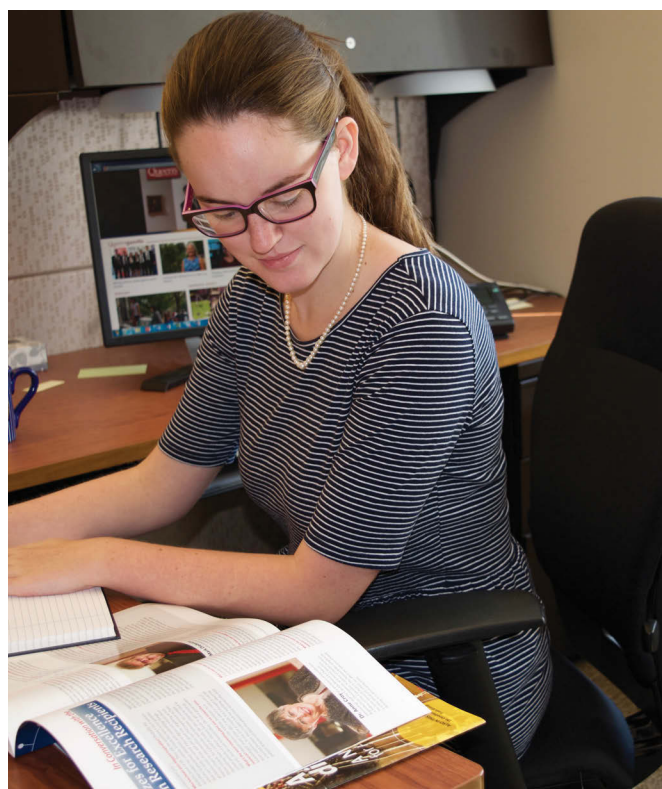
The QUIP coordinators and my fellow interns have been extremely supportive and attentive throughout my internship. The coordinators have checked in to see how my work has been going throughout my internship, and I have valued the workshops and other activities interns were able to attend during the year.

I am very excited to return for my final year of classes in the fall of 2017, and I believe taking a year to work and discover my professional strengths has a lot to do with it. I have a clear set of goals in mind now for both my classes and my life after graduation. My internship has been a wonderful experience, and being able to have it appear on my transcript is a great aspect of QUIP. This means that graduate schools and future employers will be able to see that I have worked a full-time position during my time at Queen's and developed my professional abilities.

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I would not exchange this experience for anything, and I am very grateful to everyone who helped me throughout my internship.

Leigh Cameron is a 4th-year English and Global Development Studies student and was a QUIP Intern during 2016-2017



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