

HIRE A PRACTICUM STUDENT

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS

WHO TO CONTACT

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BENEFITS TO EMPLOYERS

SAIT GIS students:

- Are eager to contribute and exude positive energy that can have long lasting benefits for your company
- Will present a dynamic and fresh perspective to your organization
- Will bring the most up-to-date information and the latest technical skills
- Can help you fill human resource needs for various special projects and vacation periods
- Can turn into valuable long-term employees
- May help you to accelerate the implementation of your succession plan by providing mentoring and supervision opportunities for current employees

Many companies to date have used the practicum as an opportunity to evaluate our students for long term employment.

PRACTICUM DETAILS

SAIT GIS students are available for practicum opportunities on a year-round continuing basis. We have students completing their coursework at both the end of April and end of August. The best time to start the process is in January and May with the intention of the employment start date being early May and September. Practicum students are also available for full-time continuing employment as they are not required to return to classes.

There are two key requirements for a position to qualify as a practicum opportunity:

- Students are required to earn 800 hours of on-the-job GIS-related work experience.
- The position must be paid.

It is important to note that shorter term opportunities (< 800 hours) also qualify for the GIS practicum, students would just be required to earn all 800 hours from more than one employer.

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION COMMITMENTS

There is very little expected of you as an employer hiring a SAIT GIS student. We do not want to make hiring one of our students a complicated or tedious process. Your requirements are outlined as follows:

- Sign the Practicum Agreement confirming the student is employed with your organization
- Submit an evaluation of the student's work using the online Practicum Student Evaluation Survey that will be emailed to you when the student nears completion of their practicum
- Provide a positive, meaningful work environment for the student to demonstrate and refine their existing GIS skills and develop new skills specific to your organizational requirements

There is no requirement to register your organization with SAIT - just hire one of our students the same way you would hire any other potential employee.

FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS EMPLOYERS

As part of the practicum process we ask employers to provide feedback on our students. Here is a small sample of the comments we hear back (names withheld for privacy):

“It was a pleasure to work with her. She worked with us remotely, logging in from Calgary. Normally, I find a true remote working arrangement to not be ideal. In her case, she was very quick in picking up what we needed her help with and it was no issue at all having her work remotely all the time. The work she submitted was high quality and was turned around quite quickly.”

“She was an amazing co-worker for our team. She provided excellent results on assigned tasks. Tools which she developed for us significantly increased efficiency of our field work and data management. I especially appreciated her proactive approach to work, exceptional reliability and ability to generate creative ideas. We were very lucky to have her on board.”

“Upon his arrival, he was given numerous tasks - many that were outside of his traditional comfort zone. He took on every project willingly and expressed a strong desire to learn and demonstrated excellent problem solving abilities. It has been rewarding to watch him develop both his skill set and his workplace acumen over the course of his work term. He has become an invaluable part of our team, and we depend on his skills and ever evolving knowledge to support the function of our office.”