

First Name: Josh Seerattan  
Institution: University of Lethbridge  
Academic Discipline: Faculty of Management – International Management  
Where did you work abroad (city, country): Washington D.C., USA  
When did you go abroad: June 6, 2011 – August 2011  
Which work term (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.): 1<sup>st</sup>



1. What motivated you to seek out an international work term?

*I am an international management major I needed the experience for when I enter the work force.*

2. How did you fund the travel and other costs associated with this opportunity?

*To date I have used student loans, scholarships and my credit card.*

3. Can you tell me what steps you took to secure your co-op position? Did you feel it was hard to secure your co-op position and how would you advise other students to make the same effort?

*I am in The Washington Centre Program once in the program you are guaranteed an internship somewhere in D.C. I found it relatively easy as I had been planning it for a few semesters. Acceptance into The Washington Centre Program is the most crucial component.*

4. When conducting your job search did you find that many of the jobs available were in specific sectors? (ie: corporate, non-profit, government, etc.) Where, or how, would you suggest other students focus their search?

*The Washington Centre provided employers in the area of interest to me with my resume and they contacted me for an interview.*

5. Tell me about the cost of living in (city or country). How did your expenses compare to your income based on the salary you were earning? Were you able to save any money and where did you find savings or discounts which reduced your expenses?

*It was an unpaid internship and the cost of living is very high I definitely underestimated my costs before starting my internship.*

6. How did you find accommodations and what rent can you expect to pay in (city or country)?

*The accommodations were provided by the Washington Center and the rent was about 5000 for June to August.*

7. What, if any, cultural barriers did you have to overcome and what were some of these challenges?

*I did not have any cultural barriers to overcome.*

8. Did you find it difficult to meet new people? What steps did you take to integrate yourself into your new surroundings and make yourself more comfortable in a new setting?

*It is extremely easy to meet with people in D.C. it is a city of networking everybody wants to talk about what they do and they also want to know what you are doing.*

9. Overall, what advice would you give co-op students who are seeking international opportunities?

*The Washington Center Program is definitely a worthwhile investment however it is very expensive, but there are opportunities available in Washington D.C. that is not available anywhere else.*

10. Is there anything else you want us to know about your experience?