

Let's Talk Business

For Ted Rogers School Students

These reports describe industry sectors and career paths of interest to Ted Rogers School Students and alumni. Each report leverages BCH employment data and the expertise of our staff. This collaborative effort engages staff, students, alumni and the University Business Librarian.

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A Day in the Life of a Staff Accountant

We recently had a conversation with Serena Dias, who is part of the Ted Rogers Accounting Co-op program.

She spent her Winter 2023 Co-op Work Term working as a *Staff Accountant at Deloitte*.

[Deloitte](#) is among the “Big Four” professional services firms, alongside PwC, Ernst & Young, and KPMG. The company offers professional business services to their clients, including auditing, human resources consulting, tax and strategy management.

In this report, Serena shares the type of work she did, the software platforms used, and what it is like being a Ted Rogers Co-op student.



 [Serena Dias](#)

Deloitte.

Q: What did you do on a ‘day-to-day’ basis in your role as a Staff Accountant at Deloitte?

A: I mainly completed the substantive testing workbooks, design and implementation (internal controls).

My main tasks included requesting supporting documents from clients, documenting samples, clearing review notes, having status calls with the clients, and other ad-hoc assigned tasks. I've achieved proficiency in critical thinking, applying it to analytical procedures, client communications with upper management, and the application of accounting theory learned in school. I've worked on more than 4 audit engagement teams, which has enhanced my ability to manage time effectively along the way.



Q: What technology platforms did you use in your role?

A: In my daily role, I use several technology platforms: Outlook for communication, Microsoft Teams for collaboration, Levvia (a platform exclusive to Deloitte for small audits), and Deloitte Connect (a platform for client item requests).



Q: How does your industry impact the world?

A: As an auditor at Deloitte, I contributed to the world by ensuring that Deloitte's stakeholders, including management and shareholders, could trust the accuracy and reliability of financial statements. This commitment enhances transparency and fairness in the business market, as Deloitte rigorously verifies that financial statements are free from significant errors and fraud.

Q: Which industry trends should aspirational students be aware of?

A: The audit industry is increasingly shifting towards automating documentation processes and leveraging data analytics to establish expectations using historical data. There is a growing demand for auditors with expertise in information technology to effectively assess and test IT controls.



Q: What advice would you provide a Ted Rogers student who aspires to work in your industry?

A: The advice I would give to students who want to work in the audit industry would be to exercise their professional skepticism regularly!

Most students, including myself, want to just finish what they're assigned without really understanding what they are looking at. Always ask your manager why you're doing the work assigned to you, and ask questions about numbers that don't look like they belong. Without having a basic understanding of the purpose of the working paper assigned to you, it makes it impossible for you to complete your assigned sections without any mistakes.

Q: Being a Ted Rogers Co-op student, how did you find the transition into your first Work Term?

A: When I started my first Work Term, I had a major case of imposter syndrome and second-guessed my abilities to excel in my job. Transitioning to my first Work Term required me to accept that if I have a positive attitude and maintained the work ethic I had during the school term, it is impossible to not do well.

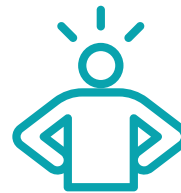
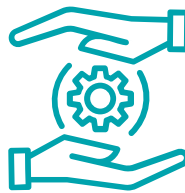
My first Work Term was a great opportunity to build on the skills I learned from school and apply those skills to future Work Terms.



Q: How did your Co-op experience help you with where you are today?

A: My Co-op experience (especially when I worked as a student auditor in the CRA) helped me to where I am today because it gave me the confidence and technical skills, I needed for the audit industry. This helped me to land an auditor position at Deloitte and prepared me for future Co-op roles. In addition, my Co-op Coordinator (Laura) was there to support me through the ups and downs I faced on the job.

With my prior Co-op experience and the support of Laura, I was able to gain the confidence needed to land my upcoming Work Term at the CRA.



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Co-op Coordinator Contributor Laura Henshaw

Laura is a Co-op Coordinator with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Psychology), Career and Work Counselling Diploma and Human Resources Management Certificate. She has 13+ years experience working in post-secondary and recruitment environments, and enjoys working with Ted Rogers students to explore different career avenues through the Co-op program.



Student Contributor Ajenth Suthanathan

Ajenth is a Human Resources Management student working part-time at the BCH. He is an aspiring HR professional looking to join the Talent Acquisition field.