On-site Requests from Employers to Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the employer’s overall responsibility to follow guidelines set by the Government and public health authorities to help prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. See the following resources provided by the Federal and Provincial governments for information and guidelines:

Public Health Agency of Canada:
Risk-informed decision-making guidelines for workplaces and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic

WorkSafe BC:
COVID-19 information and resources

BC Centre for Disease Control:
COVID-19: Employers & Businesses

As always, it is the employer’s overall responsibility to provide safe working conditions for student positions. In light of the social distancing orders currently in place, and to mitigate risks, some workplaces may choose or be required to adopt remote work arrangements for their employees and student positions. If remote work conditions are not possible due to the nature of their business, such as those in manufacturing industries with factory settings, employers must communicate any requirements for their student positions to work on-site in both their job postings to UBC Okanagan Co-op students, and throughout the application process. Employers are solely responsible for any potential liabilities or risks with respect to their own employees.

As a program, our students’ health and safety is our top priority and we advise all UBC Okanagan Co-op students to follow the guidelines set by the Government and public health authorities. We also encourage our students to take care of their mental health and provide these mental health resources to help during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Overall, it is up to the discretion of each student to decide to pursue opportunities with on-site work requirements or attend site visits requested by an employer. If a UBC Okanagan Co-op student feels uncomfortable with any on-site requirements from employers during COVID-19, we support their decision to not pursue these types of opportunities at this time.