

Let's Talk Business

For Ted Rogers School Students

These reports describe industry sectors and career paths of interest to Ted Rogers School of Management 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 Risk Assurance Intern

We connected with Azhar Osman, a Co-op student, due to graduate in the Economics & Management Science Program, in 2024.

She spent her Winter 2023 Work Term as a *Risk Assurance Intern* within the Data Centre of Excellence (DCoE) at PwC.

The Data Centre of Excellence at PwC is dedicated to helping organizations effectively mitigate their risks and manage intricate regulatory requirements.

Within this report, we capture some of her experience while on Work Term.



 [Azhar Osman](#)



Q: What did you do on a "day-to-day" basis in your role as a Risk Assurance Intern at PwC?

A: As a DCoE Intern, I worked with the Assurance teams to provide specific support for their audits.

I mainly assisted with two types of testing - Halos, and report testing. Halos is a computer-assisted auditing technique that tests client's journal entries. This involves extracting data directly from our client's system - there are a few different acquisition methods we could use to do this, and it was entirely dependent on the client's ERP. Report testing involved testing the completeness and accuracy of certain reports that our client's system generated, and we did this by evaluating the script and parameters used.

My day-to-day tasks often involved coordinating between the assurance teams and our clients. With assurance teams, I guided them through the steps needed to perform testing, as well as answered questions they may have had through the process. With clients, I often needed to reach out to request the right resources we needed to perform our testing, as well as ask any follow-up questions about the data.

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

A: **Connect** - is how we communicated with our clients, and where they uploaded the data and resources needed for our audit work.

Aura - is where we completed a lot of our testing. Each project had its aura file where we stored all of our audit work and found previous year's files, as a reference.

Alteryx and Excel- were both data analytics tools used to transform or analyze data.

GSuite - to communicate with co-workers and clients.

IPower - a tool we used to record what clients we worked on and for how long - we did this on a daily basis.



alteryx

G Suite

Q: How does your industry impact the world?

A: This industry impacts the world by examining the financial records and statements of businesses to ensure they are accurate and reliable. Financial statements capture the different transactions of a company and are updated internally. So, third-party auditors need to verify that they are credible and that no fraudulent activities are taking place because investors rely on these financial statements to make decisions that ultimately affect the business' value.

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

A: Students planning to work in Accounting, Auditing, or Consulting should be aware of the 'Generally Accepted Accounting Principles'. These are guidelines that Accountants follow when recording transactions so learning about them can help you understand how and why businesses are recording their finances in a certain way.

I would also say having a basic understanding of how common ERP systems work and store data can be helpful especially when working in the DCoE team because the client's system is taken into consideration when evaluating extraction methods.



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

A: I would advise students to take chances especially when applying for jobs. It's ok not to meet every single requirement for a role as long as you have a strong willingness to learn. Personally, when starting at PwC, I wasn't the most confident because I wasn't an Accounting Major, but they provided me with a lot of training and resources so when I began working on projects, I felt comfortable doing them independently. I would also say, being flexible and having the ability to adapt, is important because we are always changing the way we audit by introducing new platforms and tools. It will make your job a lot easier if you know how to use these tools effectively.

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

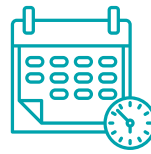
A: With my first Work Term last Spring 2022, I found the transition hard at first, but I quickly got the hang of things. It was difficult in the beginning because before this I had never worked in a professional/corporate setting, and I wasn't used to leading conversations or working full time. However, in terms of the actual work, I feel like the Co-op program, specifically the Excel Bootcamps and the academic curriculum, prepared me well. I'm not an Accounting major, but the concepts I currently use are things I can remember learning in my introductory Accounting courses.

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

A: This Co-op experience has helped develop my technical skills. I've always been interested in data analysis and my current role helped me achieve that by developing my skills in Excel, as well as introducing me to new tools such as Alteryx and ACL. I even learned a little bit about reading SQL scripts.

It's also taught me how to be confident when speaking in a professional setting as I now have lots of experience leading projects, as well as team discussions.

Lastly, my Co-op experience helped me improve my time management and organization skills, as I am now used to juggling multiple tasks and working 8-hour days, so I'm hoping this will translate well when I go back to school!



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Co-op Coordinator Contributor Daniel Leone

Daniel is a Co-op Coordinator with the Ted Rogers School of Management with over six years of experience working as a Campus Recruiter for organizations such as PwC, Deloitte and Questrade. His passions focus on understanding how to build and utilize professional relationships to better position yourself in the workforce.



Student Contributor Jillien Arrubio

Jillien is a Retail Management student at TRSM and Retail Management Director for TRSS. She is passionate about learning everything related to sustainability and the retail industry.