



Work Experience for Graduate Students

Revised and updated by Sharon Sankar, P.Eng., P.E., Director of Admissions, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba on March 1, 2017.

As of June 30, 2015, the Experience Review Committee of the Association (ERC) will no longer be reviewing work experience earned while doing a Canadian Master's of Science in engineering (Research based) or Canadian Master's of Science in geoscience. Interns will be required to submit their Master's degree to the Association and, once approved, will be credited automatically with 12 months of credit. No progress reports are required. Details on how to claim are available here: <http://www.apegm.mb.ca/RegistrationFAQ.html> Pre-registration program - Question #7.

Applicants who have completed a Master's degree outside of Canada may submit progress reports on the work completed while doing thesis work or outside projects if they wish to receive credit for it. However, credit will not be automatically granted. A post-graduate allocation table (which is selected when you do the online progress report) must be completed. This table is an estimate of the time spent doing eligible work – e.g. thesis, projects and in-eligible work – e.g. marking papers, taking courses.

Applicants who are doing a Phd, will submit progress reports in the normal way and complete the post-graduate allocation table indicating which portion of their work is eligible and which is not.

The limit for credit for Master's work is 12 months, while the limit for Phd work is 48 months, provided it is approved by the ERC.

Explanation of graduate work:

Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba espouses the fundamental principle that acceptable engineering or geoscientific work experience is acceptable engineering or geoscientific work experience, whether it is obtained in government, in consulting, in industry, on campus, or in any other area. Therefore, a single Progress Report Form is used for all Interns, regardless of their place of work.

Many graduate students have experienced difficulty in completing the Progress Report Form. This document is intended to assist both graduate students and their supervisors in assessing the work experience and completing the forms.

Much of the work performed by a graduate student in many cases comprises acceptable engineering or geoscientific work experience. Full credit can be given for work that:

- satisfies the definition of “The Nature of Acceptable Engineering Work Experience” or “The Nature of Acceptable Geoscientific Work Experience”,
- is obtained under the supervision of a registered professional member of this Association, and
- is obtained while the graduate student is enrolled as an Intern with APEGM and complying with all of the requirements of APEGM’s Pre-Registration Program.

Interns are normally required to report on every six months’ (full-time) work experience – or equivalent. If an MIT is working half-time in engineering or geoscience, for example, he or she is only required to submit a report after 12 months (when six months’ experience has been obtained). The question is, what is engineering or geoscience experience for graduate students?

Research work is probably (depending on the nature of the thesis or project, and whether all of the elements of the definition of acceptable work experience are present) the practice of engineering or geoscience. So, also, is the teaching of (3rd or 4th year level) design courses.

The following activities commonly undertaken by graduate students, however, are NOT the practice of engineering or geoscience:

- attending classes,
- attending laboratories and tutorials,
- completing course assignments, studying for and writing tests and examinations,
- serving as Teaching Assistants for courses other than design courses

Students taking full course loads, for example, are likely **not** obtaining full-time work experience – and may not be obtaining **any** work experience, if they are not conducting research or assisting in the teaching of design courses while they are completing their graduate course requirements. They are, however, obtaining significant Professional Development credits.

Please note that courses taken can be recorded as Professional Development activity.

Please note, also, that a month's work is based on 40 or more hours of work per week. No additional credit is given for long working days ("overtime"), just as no deductions are made for statutory holidays, earned vacation, etc.