



Testimonials

Student Internships:

“The Foundry Program is a great initiative led by outstanding people. The Foundry Program has enriched my last year at Carleton University in different ways. It gave me the opportunity to work closely with brilliant people who were bringing their ideas to the marketplace. I believe that is one of the most rewarding things in the world: to build your own business based on ideas, brains, and hard work. And there is a lot to learn from these people and their experiences, especially if you were working side by side with them. I was able to make valuable contacts with people inside and outside the Carleton community. In addition, the Foundry Program provided me with valuable lessons on what to do and how to approach different problems that arise in the real world. You just do not deal with most of these significant experiences in the courses you take at the University.

For me, the Foundry Program was a wonderful way to compliment my studies at Carleton University.”

Ezequiel Glinsky, M.A.Sc.
Development Manager, Livra, Buenos Aires, Argentina

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“For a researcher with a solid idea, Luc and his team at the Foundry are the people to talk to. More important than the financial support they can provide, is the network of people they connect you to. Luc's name goes a long way in the community, and a phone call from him can get you a meeting with patent agents, angels, VCs, government agencies, technology CEOs, etc... Pitching to these experts gets you valuable feedback to tune your idea into something with commercial potential and opens doors into future corporate partnerships.”

- Gord Allan, Ph.D. (former Foundry student intern and founder of Cold Clock Semiconductor)

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“In the time that the Foundry program has worked with us, I have realized the benefit an organization like this one has on a University like Carleton. There are so many bright students in the science and engineering programs at this school with innovative minds and a desire to bring their ideas to fruition. However, there must be a means with which students with fresh theories have a chance to nurture their inventive side and understand how their ideas can be implemented in the real world. The success that this program has already achieved and will be sure to achieve in the

future will act as a continuous catalyst showcasing Foundry and Carleton University as institutions that not only teach us of the most powerful ideas of the past, but equally encourage the creation of the most powerful ideas of the future.”

- Edward Chouchani, 3rd Year Biochemistry and co-founder of Mobilab Technologies

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“The Foundry has done an exceptional job shaping not only the companies of tomorrow, but the leaders of tomorrow. The Foundry was an excellent experience. There are few opportunities equal to Foundry where students can get plugged into the local start-up community.”

Jay Payette, B.Com
Business Analyst – Accenture, Inc.

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“Foundry program was great. It helped me bring my study and professional experience together and build my experience and new skills in Canada”

Yong Zhang, TIM Program

“I worked for the Foundry Program for more than six months as a student consultant. I believe the Foundry Program strengthened and broadened my skills. I enjoyed exploring ways to adapt and build different business ideas. This made me think of my PhD research on software performance engineering from a business perspective. Besides the knowledge of turning ideas into businesses, I developed a network of strong and lasting relationships with my colleagues. During your stay in the Foundry Program, you get a diverse experience that is otherwise hard to gain on a University campus.”

Tariq Omari, PhD student (Department of Systems and Computer Engineering)

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“The Foundry Program truly reflects how supportive the Carleton University community really is. I was a student intern with the Foundry program during the year 2004. During my stay with the program, I really enjoyed interacting with the enthusiastic and hardworking university researchers and entrepreneurs that were assisted by the Foundry Program. Besides my interactions with the University researchers, I also learned a great deal from my fellow interns.”

Sandy Ng, PhD Student, (Department of Electronics, Carleton University)

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“Haroon Mirza was immersed in what he calls “The Foundry Experience” from 2003 to 2004. He feels that the Foundry offers an amazing opportunity to bridge the gap between theory and practice. Working with interns and entrepreneurs, all of whom possess a diverse and broad range of skills and talents, is truly an exhilarating experience. The Foundry serves as a catalyst that will spur tremendous personal and professional growth for all involved.

“If I had to pick one word to best describe the benefits of the Foundry program, it would be ‘priceless’.”

Haroon F. Mirza, B. Comm.

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“The association with the Foundry Program in Carleton University over the last three years has been a very special one for me. Foundry has been a major factor serving as a catalyst in my transformation from a business student to a business professional. During my student days, the work at Foundry not only exposed me to the practical issues in commercialization of technologies, but also, provided the necessary monetary benefits that helped me stay focused on my MBA studies.

I have gained an immense practical knowledge of the various business aspects across different disciplines of finance, operations, marketing and legal issues. In serving as a business advisor providing expertise to entrepreneurs in building their ideas into business plans has been extremely enriching. Understanding the technology and recognizing its fatal flaws has been a major learning. A person enters into a business with certain amounts of risks and it is necessary to understand them before making a commitment. The importance of due diligence in exposing these risks is instrumental for any business proposal. Other aspects of commercialization like the market analysis, target market identification, competitive analysis are also important aspects while evaluating the potential of a technology or a business idea. Understanding the market needs and catering the research efforts to solving the problems of the market, give a higher chance of success for the given technology or business idea. The operational aspects of identifying the manufacturing resources, logistic sources, marketing and sales channels are also very crucial right from the beginning. The commercialization aspects i.e., recognizing if it’s a licensing opportunity or a spin off opportunity is also very important. The legal aspects, related with patents, non disclosure agreements, contracts etc. have proved to be one of the most important aspects as seen in some of the recent cases with successful businesses. Apart from these process related aspects, I as student was exposed to the softer side of management aspects as well as general management aspects.

Working in a team setting with each person responsible for a certain aspect of the case creates a real business like situation. As a team leader, I learned to be a leader as well as a coach and realized that deadlines can be kept by not just pushing people around but giving them the freedom to go about their work and provide them with the required resources. Managing the resources; time, money and people to keep all the cases moving was one of the key skills that I have gained through my experience here. Interactions with clients (entrepreneurs) in the most professional manner were essential aspects of this position.

Thus Foundry has played an important part in my all round development. All this experience and the programs reputation have helped me land a job as a Product Development Manager in a startup located in Ottawa. The Foundry Program is the best experience a student in Carleton can have in their transformation from a student to a professional. I believe such a program deserves all the support that can be given as this model really helps the university students become true professional ready to take on the business world.”

Shaunak Bapat, Sprout MBA

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“As an international student, who came to Carleton University in January 2003 in search of new life experiences, I was really lucky that I got an opportunity to work with a Carleton initiative which has profoundly impacted my personal values and beliefs and also helped me define a purpose to my life. I came to Carleton from a comparatively larger University system, especially because of Carleton’s vision for the future; a vision I felt was strongly driven by a desire to be the best University in Canada and a vision which should create possibilities of ‘life changing experiences’ for every single student who consciously chooses to spend a significant part of his/her creative life with Carleton University. For me, the Carleton University Foundry Program symbolizes this vision. Not only is the program redefining the rules of ‘University technology transfer and research commercialization’ but it is also standing out because of its more ‘holistic’ views on community and social development as well as its strong commitment to the development of the future Canadian leadership. I am, personally, really proud of what our University has achieved through the Foundry Program. Foundry Program, to me, is not only a vehicle for technology and research commercialization but it is a statement of Carleton’s strong focus on its people; its students, faculty and researchers. By developing a leadership position in our new approach to University technology transfer; by infusing a more humane touch into the whole process; by acknowledging the courage it takes for a researcher to come out and share his/her dreams with their University community, and through our strong focus on making the students a core stakeholder in the success of our approach, we are indeed sending out a very strong message to the University communities across the world. A definite acknowledgement of our success is the marked increase in the interest in our approach, both within Canada as well as internationally. The Foundry Program, with its unique structure and its defined philosophy of facilitating ‘a subtle but profound’ experience for every single member of the Carleton community is in reality delivering on the promise of our University, that of creating a “life changing experience” for each member of our global community who decides to make Carleton University his or her home. It will not be prudent on my part to say that the Carleton University Foundry Program will play a major role in establishing our University as a fertile breeding ground for innovation and help our University into the league of entrepreneurial powerhouses of the likes of Stanford University and MIT.”

Manu Sharma, PhD Student (Eric Sprott School of Business)
Program Manager – Carleton University Foundry Program

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“All throughout my association with the Foundry program, I was simply amazed by the level of passion, integrity and dedication displayed by all those involved with the Foundry. As a public relations intern I applied my expertise in the fields of promotion, broadcast and print media and interpersonal communications to help promote the ideals, philosophy and achievements of the Foundry. I firmly believe that the experience I gained in the Foundry will serve me well for the rest of my career.

The Foundry is a truly unique and innovative program that not only gives crucial opportunities to students but also nurtures and broadens their talents and skills.”

Saima Nasir, Undergraduate Student (School of Journalism and Communication)

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Valerie Georgewill worked with the Foundry Program for more than six months as a public relations intern. She really enjoyed the wealth of experience that the program gave her as a student about to step out into the workforce. Publicizing the achievements of the Foundry was made easy by the wealth of talent, creativity and passion that she witnesses in her fellow interns.

“When I think of the Foundry program, I think of a mother eagle, giving her eaglets the encouraging nudge they need to fly.”

Valeri Georgewill, Undergraduate student, School of Journalism and Communication

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“I worked with the Foundry Program as a student intern for more than a year, and I found the experience as a student intern very rewarding. As a help-mate to researchers, I helped them test projects at their different stages of development, providing useful input to researchers, and gaining practical experience that I can utilize once I join the work force. It was a matter of pride for me to be able to work with a resource that Carleton innovators can leverage to get their cutting-edge research to the market.”

Carlos Yepez, Masters, Systems and Computer Eng.

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“My experiences at the Foundry program have allowed me to develop alternative methods of research, while solidifying my own personal traits. To me, the Foundry has been a source of professional expertise, inspiration, and a key stepping-stone in development of my professional attributes.”

Alex Pasyukov, Undergraduate Student (Eric Sprott School of Business)

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“The simple yet versatile nature of the Foundry Program (reflected in its core values, philosophy, structure and process) and its endeavor to help researchers/ entrepreneurs live their dreams and also to help the interns to get a wonderful learning experience makes it not only a unique but also an amazing program to be associated with.”

Kanu Sharma, Ph.D. Candidate (Eric Sprott School of Business)
