

SUCCESS STORY



www.bioalberta.com

www.biohubx.com

Dayna Neilson has always wanted her work to make an impact, but during her undergraduate studies she remained unsure of exactly what that would look like in a career. Her search led her to the University of Calgary's [Master of Biomedical Technology \(MBT\)](#) program. Dayna completed her final practicum of the MBT program at Biohubx in Calgary.

Biohubx is a not-for-profit organization that supports the life sciences ecosystem in Alberta. Director of Business Development Elisa Park Kim explains that Biohubx helps ready-to-scale companies get to market sooner than if a company was doing it on their own. Biohubx provides an ecosystem of support, de-risks acquisition of wet lab space, equipment and office space, as well as facilitates technical and quality services. This comprehensive approach allows the start-up to fully focus on using their resources to grow their team and progress their technology to market.

Dayna pursued her internship at Biohubx because it is “an organization that supports the whole life sciences ecosystem. By working with Biohubx, rather than supporting any one company develop their technology, I could help many companies.” She goes on to say that she has worked on both business and science related projects during her internship at Biohubx and has “really enjoyed exposure to both fields.” Dayna was trained to use lab equipment commonly used in the industry, and “had the chance to culture human cells and image them with a microscope, which was exciting.”

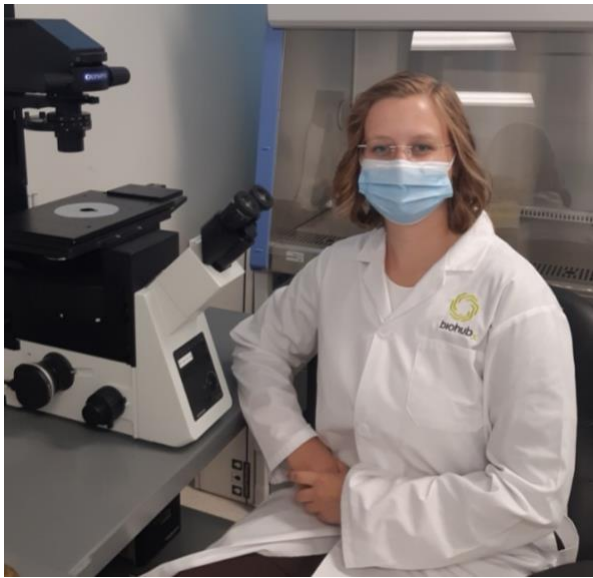
Dayna was surprised by how much she enjoyed the business aspects of her internship. Even though her background is in science, she was interested in exploring the different aspects of business development. As a result, she became



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responsible for optimizing Biohubx's Customer Relationship Management system. Dayna reflects on her experience: "I had no idea that I was interested in pursuing a more business-orientated role before working with Biohubx, so I'm happy that I've discovered that about myself through this opportunity!"

Elisa is enthusiastic about Dayna's work with Biohubx, noting that Dayna brought "new ideas" to the company and took initiative on projects. Elisa stressed the importance of WIL funding that helped hire Dayna, emphasizing that Biohubx "wants to keep talent here in Alberta, and by offering students support over the summer, they gain essential experience within their area of study that assists them in advancing their career path."



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Dayna agrees. "The reality of being a university student is that it's expensive. Many students, myself included, work during the summer so that we can help support our studies in the fall, and the ideal case would be summer work in our field of study. Getting a position in this sector with a company that is aligned with my interests wouldn't be possible without programs like WIL. The program offered me peace of mind during the summer and got me excited about my future career. This opportunity has solidified in my mind that this is the field I want to work in."

Dayna leaves her internship "very inspired" by the Biohubx team. She says, "I know that by working with Biohubx I can contribute to and support the life sciences ecosystem in Alberta. I

can also contribute to the advancement of new technologies, therapeutics, and medical devices, which is something I'm passionate about. I enjoy thinking of the future of the life sciences in Alberta and how quickly the sector is growing. The most exciting part of my time at Biohubx has been talking about and contributing to the future direction of Biohubx, discussing how it can continue to support the life sciences ecosystem, how I can contribute to that support, and how Alberta could look in five or ten years. It's so exciting to think about that vision and to work towards achieving it." The future for both Dayna and Biohubx looks bright!

To learn more about hosting an MBT Student Practicum, contact zali@ucalgary.ca.

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