

# SUCCESS STORY

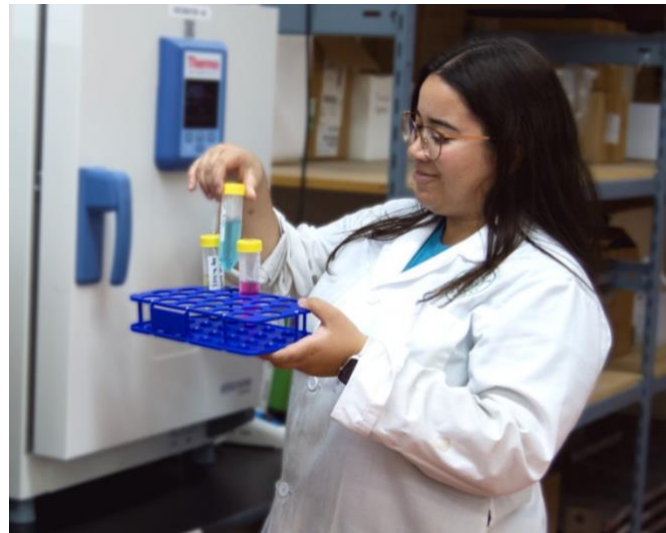


[www.bioalberta.com](http://www.bioalberta.com)



<https://raftbrewlabs.ca>

Raft Brew Labs is a Calgary-based company that saw the need for microbiological testing in the craft beer industry and jumped to fill the gap. They believe in supporting local breweries in producing big industry quality beverages and helping them reduce costs and headaches that come without this scientific approach to brewing. Raft eliminates the guessing games that come without this data and help local businesses achieve consistent results every month. As a company they believe in supporting and fostering community, and constantly striving to shake things up in the brewing world. One way Raft does this is by stacking their lab with female technicians: female-fronted lab work is one of the things they are most proud of at Raft.



*Ayat Kharroubi*

Utilizing WIL funds administrated by BioAlberta and hiring student interns has been a foundational to Raft since the very beginning and bringing intern Ayat Kharroubi on board has helped them grow and continue to give students a chance to work safely and happily in their industry post-graduation.

Ayat came to Raft after completing her degree in Chemistry at the University of Calgary. She says that her biggest strength comes from bringing her chemistry background to a lab that is heavily dominated by microbiological backing. This different perspective allows Ayat to bring new lab experience to help with method validation and development.

Christine Dawson, Microbiologist and Operations Manager at Raft, believes in hiring interns because of their ability to bring fresh perspective to the lab. “Ayat started with us as an intern and has become an invaluable part of our team. We've seen her develop her skills in all areas: technical, analytical, business, communication. She approaches her work with curiosity and a keen eye for detail that has helped us refine our processes and deliver better services. It's amazing to watch students grow and build confidence and be able to support them in their careers whether they end up continuing their journey with us like Ayat or not”.

Ayat has learned that she loves to work in a lab setting that is constantly changing and she really enjoys trying new methods and developing them as well. She is excited to continue to expand the methods used within the company and to meet more people in the craft beverage industry. Her confidence as a chemist and a microbiologist has grown during her time at Raft and learning to apply her chemistry background in a different way has helped her become a more well-rounded scientist and businesswoman. When Ayat isn't in the lab, you can find her in the kitchen baking one of her famous cakes or spending time with friends and family.

### In Ayat's own words:

“WIL funding gave me the opportunity to work with an amazing company that has given me integral skills and knowledge, as well as the chance to apply my knowledge in a practical setting that expands my resume and skills. A lot of what Raft does involves beer and microbiology knowledge, which I had none of when I first started at Raft. Raft has provided the opportunity to learn more about how beer is produced and the processes it undergoes for quality assurance and control. In addition, I have learned a lot about microbiological practices and techniques. One method that was completely new to me when I started with Raft was microbiological plating of samples and now I feel confident to execute that technique.”



### Beyond the science

Raft Brew Labs is leading a national coalition of businesses to create compassionate and evidence-based responses to the drug poisoning crisis that welcome all neighbours into their communities. As a result of their efforts, staff at Raft have conducted over a thousand overdose response trainings and engaged with harm reduction advocacy that builds greater inclusivity into the business community. Learn more here: <https://raftbrewlabs.ca/policies-governance/>.

# WIL VOUCHER

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