

Student's Research Experiences at KPU Transcript

My name is Camille Bedard. I'm a fourth-year student completing a Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology and a minor in counseling. My name is Yoshe Durston and I am in the product design program here at Wilson School of Design. My name is Eliana McFarlane and I'm a fourth-year sociology student at KPU. Hi there, I'm Matias McDonald. I am a fourth-year product design student at the Wilson School of Design. Hi, my name is Amanda Tam and I'm a fourth-year student in the Sustainable Agriculture Program at KPU. And I'm here to talk about my experience being a part of a research course series.

What kinds of research projects did you get involved with?

In the Sustainable Agriculture program. We are required to carry out our own research. This is through a three-course series. The first one, being in the spring, is called Experimental Design and Analysis, where we learn how to properly design and experiment and how to properly analyze the statistics for that set of experiments. Then in the summer is where we carry out our research and this course is called Research One, And then in the fall, which is called Research two is where we collect our data and analyze the statistics. We write a report and then actually present the experiment in our research at a seminar. My research experience at KPU has been both course-based and based in, I guess sort of under an instructor here at KPU. I've participated in research created by other students as well through the SONA research pool. In terms of course-based research, I've completed projects in qualitative research methods and in both and also in quantitative research methods. Currently, I'm doing research for my capstone project, which is urban bicycle storage. When I picked this topic, I really didn't have any connection with a user who might be someone that I'm targeting for this. So I really had to broaden my scope and use unconventional ways of research through social media asking questions that way. I did a lot of research on Reddit and peer-reviewed published reports by cycling here in Vancouver to identify the problem. Throughout my four years here, I've embarked on many research projects, almost all in coursework, all course-based. These research projects vary from a day project to a week, to two months to three months. And then finally, in my fourth year, I'm doing my Capstone Project, which is a two-semester project. The first half is all research, then the second half will be in the creating of the product, which does still involves research. Lots of the synthesizing and decision-making on creating the best on all products possible. First and foremost, the interpersonal skills that I get from being able to develop a research plan and then take that into the design, the design aspect further down the line, As well as doing lots of team projects, product design, lots of it is within small groups or in a classroom setting. We've had projects from one person, three people all the way to the whole class, completing one single project together. In that sense, it gives you more of a perspective on what it's like being in a actual job placement or industry outside of school. Because we are all having to choose a specific responsibility and share that weekly throughout the term with our fellow group members. During my degree, I have been granted the opportunity to get involved in research projects across different disciplines at KPU. Many of the research opportunities that came to completion were course-based research projects that took place in my third and fourth years of studying. Many of which included conducting research with humans and thus completing the TCPS training and receiving approval from the Research and Ethics Board were necessary, and critical steps to complete and learn from the research projects that were

woven into my coursework were due at the end of the semester and served as final exams. However, I have also been a part of research projects that were external to my coursework, and those projects had longer projected durations, approximately six to eight months. Depending on various factors such as funding, contracts, and time available for all parties. I was made aware of most opportunities from professors I was learning from at the time. Now, this may serve as an additional reason why you may want to try your very best in all your classes. You never know when an opportunity may arise. So it's always good to build a respectful report with your professors and peers.

What did you benefit from participating in research projects?

What I learned from this project is that I don't know, just being given the opportunity to carry out your own project gives you a real sense of ownership. And just knowing that if you want to be successful, you need to plan this and that. Really, just know that you are the one making decisions. And you are able to just given these opportunities to think of how to problem solve and critical thinking when problems do arise. Because when you do research, a lot of it is out of your control. You will encounter problems. But of course, even though a lot of that responsibility falls on you, you're never quite like ever alone. Because you do have lots of resources and help through your professors, and in my case, the KPU Farm. Yeah, that's how I've really benefited and what I've learned through this research. I think that integrating research activities in the coursework encourages students to be critically thinking and to understand and learn how to assess and examine various pieces of research literature, or the type of literature that's available for them and everybody else. It facilitates curiosity and creativity. I think with research fully on you, you're the researcher and you're going to get out what you put it. You learned the skill set of really reaping what you saw in regard to that. How did I benefit from doing these research projects? First and foremost, the interpersonal skills that I get from being able to develop a research plan and then take that into the design, the design aspect for the down the line. As well as doing lots of team projects in product design. Lots of it is within small groups or in a classroom setting. So we've had projects from one person, three people all the way to the whole class completing one single project together. In that sense, it gives you more of a perspective on what it's like being in a actual job placement or industry outside of school. Because we are all having to choose a specific responsibility and share that weekly throughout the term with our fellow group members. And we'll all take a specific aspect of something that we're strong in so we can complement each other in that aspect. As well as team building, of course, seeing how to work in a team, like I said, everybody has different skills, so trying to make the best use of everybody's skills and create a team effort. Participating in research projects in multiple capacities is an opportunity that I believe every student should be able to experience at least once in their academic journey. Not only do you get to learn more about topics and themes that you're interested and or passionate about, but you also learn how to engage in formal research, attend conferences, network with people in the field, and produce quality work that you can feel proud of. On a personal note, I know that a Masters and Doctorate degree are in my future. And so getting a taste of conducting research while learning under someone now will be so valuable to me. Later when I have to conduct my own research.

Why do you think including research activities in a course is important?

I would recommend that faculty incorporate research into their curriculum because it's an opportunity for the student to really gain some new important skills and just learn about themselves too along the way. It's just opportunities like this is really exciting because they got to be an active participant in the creation of new knowledge. I think that instructors, professors, et cetera, would benefit from taking

components and parts of research and integrating that within their coursework. Whether that's conducting a full research experiment or study, or by getting students to do something like writing proposals. Because I think that's one of those things that a lot of students, especially when they're preparing themselves for grad school, they don't get that experience. They don't get sort of taught how to do these things in a structured way. Skills that I developed was really having no one tell me what to do. I just had to come up with my own ways of coping with it, which is kind of like you're on your own, but in a way you develop skills that will help you in your job or your business. Because if your boss tells you to get something done and they can't be there to hold your hand walking through it, you're kind of just phase to get it done. Or I guess someone else. Research, especially in the school design is very important because it allows us to create solutions that will benefit, users, communities, and systems as a whole in the school design are generally focused on a user-based design. Really honing in on a specific target, specific user to create a solution around that project. I think it's important to be able to do that, especially with outside stakeholders because it involves us in the community. As well as increases the aspect of co-design to actually put ourselves in the shoes of the user to hopefully create even a better solution than we would internally here with simply reading journals, reading on the internet, referring to books, Actually going out and speaking to stakeholders in our community around the specific project objective is very crucial to create a holistic design. Now I recognize, and I understand that sometimes we as students, do not have the time to get involved with opportunities outside of our course load. In addition to all the other factors that life throws our way, sometimes things get chaotic. This is why I would encourage professors to incorporate research opportunities into their course outlines, and I would also encourage students to register for these courses. As a student, you will still have to go through many of the same steps as you would as a research assistant. And you will be able to meet frequently with your professor if you need to troubleshoot or ask any questions. Not only will you begin to familiarize yourself with the research process, but you will also better understand whether research is something that you would like to engage with. The time commitment is shorter than most research assistant positions and you can include the work in your predetermined school hours. Overall, I think that engaging in research in any capacity at KPU is an awesome opportunity for growth both academically and personally. There are many options available to students, whether you are invited to engage in research or you take it upon yourself to find opportunities via Arts Net. Completing undergraduate research is a great tool to have as you must engage in collaborative learning, public speaking, and academic writing. Sometimes there are opportunities to attend conferences, symposiums, talks, and seminars where you can listen to and network with like-minded students and scholars. Of course, I'm biased, but if you don't believe me, challenge yourself and register for a course that involves a research component, somewhere along your academic journey.