



Profiling Opportunity: Pathways to the Future

The POP video series from the Department of Cell & Systems Biology spotlights opportunities and showcases careers in the Life Sciences. Produced by students for students, the series gets to the heart of what concerns, excites and engages undergraduates in this field of study.

POP Spark Guide, Opportunities in Life Sciences

Global Brigades:

University of Toronto Global Brigades (UTGB) is our U of T chapter of a student-led global health, international non-profit organization called Global Brigades. Global Brigades mobilizes university students and professionals through skill-based programs (healthcare, business, law, engineering) that work in partnership with community members to improve quality of life in under resourced regions while respecting local culture. Since 2004, Global Brigades has mobilized thousands of university students and professionals through ten skill-based programs that work in partnership with community members to improve quality of life in under resourced regions while respecting local culture.

Discussion Sparks:

- Could you see yourself volunteering for a group like GB? Why or why not?
- Being completely student-run sets GB apart. How could that affect the kind of skills you develop if you volunteered with them?
- Dan describes how GB gives students in the Life Sciences the opportunity to collaborate with students in other fields of study. What is the added value in a cross-discipline collaboration like this?
- What are some specific benefits Dan found volunteering with GB? What are some ways these benefits can serve his professional goals?

General questions to spark discussion on opportunities:

- What is the value of opportunities that take you outside the classroom?
- What are some of the major barriers for taking advantages of opportunities outside the classroom? What are some strategies for addressing them?
- What kinds of opportunities do you believe can enhance education in Life Sciences?

Resources to share with students:

- University of Toronto Global Brigades: <http://utgb.sa.utoronto.ca>
- Ulife is a one-stop website listing a large and diverse directory of student clubs, organizations, activities and opportunities on all three campuses: <https://www.ulife.utoronto.ca/>
- Volunteering tips and resources from other UofT campuses.
Scarborough: <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/aacc/volunteering>
Mississauga: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/volunteer>
- Volunteer Toronto increases the positive impact that volunteering has on the City of Toronto through innovative initiatives that inspire, inform, and connect volunteers and the organizations that need them: <http://www.volunteertoronto.ca/>