



About the Shad Valley Program

Introduction

For over 30 years, the award-winning Shad Valley program has proven to be a life-changing experience for senior high school students (grades 10, 11 & 12; in Quebec, secondaire IV, V and Cegep I) interested in pushing their creative and intellectual capacity to the limit. This four-week residential program encourages students to open their minds and explore new career opportunities; students are immersed in workshops, lectures, projects, and recreational activities that increase self-confidence and develop such skills as problem solving, effective communication, leadership and teamwork. Following the Shad Valley program, students become part of a lifelong network of friends and peers.

Shad Valley participants have hailed from all parts of Canada, as well as the United States and Hong Kong. Students are selected on the basis of their intellect, creativity, initiative, interpersonal skills and drive. While the Shad Valley program is built on the academic foundations of science, engineering and entrepreneurship, participants more succinctly describe it as *"the experience of a lifetime"*.

Unique among summer programs for youth, Shad Valley follows a co-op model, offering a four-week university-based academic portion, followed by a challenging summer internship. Shad Valley is industry-driven, with over 100 companies and organizations supporting the program.

Goals

- To give participants an appreciation of their true potential and to encourage them to strive for the highest levels of personal achievement
- To encourage excellence through teamwork
- To expand career horizons and promote advanced studies by providing hands-on experiences
- To impart an appreciation for business by fostering entrepreneurial talents
- To build bridges between industry and education
- To aid the long-term recruitment efforts of partner companies

History

Shad Valley International was incorporated in December 1980 as the Shad Valley Centre for Creative Technology. The first Shad Valley program was offered at St. Andrew's College, a private high school in Aurora, Ontario, Canada, in the summer of 1981.

While many individuals have contributed over the years to the design and success of the program, Shad Valley was the brainchild of Dr. Derek Lane-Smith, parent, teacher, physicist, entrepreneur and founding president of Shad Valley. Dr. Lane-Smith attributes his own childhood experiences at a youth club in England, and his desire to provide opportunities for growth and discovery for his own children, as his motivation to launch Shad Valley.

The program relocated to the University of Waterloo (Waterloo, Ontario) in 1983. Since then, additional campuses have been established, and Shad Valley currently operates programs at 10 Canadian host universities. The latest campus, l'Université Laval, introduced in 2006, is the first bilingual Shad Valley program.

Shad Valley International is charitable not-for-profit organization headquartered in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Shad Valley has over 12,000 alumni, 22 of whom are Rhodes Scholars.

Discover where dreams can take you at www.shad.ca