To make our undergraduate educational experience even more robust and transformative, we are freeing it from the traditional academic calendar. In 2017, Rensselaer will launch the Summer Arch. During the Summer Arch, students will remain on campus for the summer after their sophomore year, taking junior-level classes, and receive focused attention from professors at this pivotal point in their academic progression.

Students will leave the Troy campus for a semester during the traditional junior year—either fall or spring—to pursue their passions in the form of co-ops, internships, community service, research, or international experiences. Students who pursue these opportunities during their academic career will be better prepared for future professional careers and graduate school.

Summer Arch prepares students to meet the multifaceted challenges of the 21st century. The Summer Arch will augment academic and experiential learning programs, providing an even more robust—and transformative—educational experience for undergraduate students.

**SUMMER ARCH**

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Whatever students decide to do during the Summer Arch—join a multinational corporation, launch a start-up, work in a health care clinic, or help NASA to land humans on Mars—the experience will broaden and deepen their knowledge, and build leadership skills.

Global companies that hire our students welcome them for longer periods than typical internships. Rensselaer continues to work with these companies to create new programs for juniors.

The Summer Arch semester is like any other semester—students attend full-time and financial aid is available. With the exception of those in the five-year Bachelor of Architecture program, students who maintain satisfactory progress will graduate in eight terms.

**SUMMER ON CAMPUS**

Summer Arch allows students to experience Rensselaer in a unique academic environment. As the only full class on campus, rising juniors will have increased access to faculty and staff in specialized classes, workshops, and luncheons. They will have greater access to our world-class facilities such as the Lighting Research Center, Microelectronics Clean Room, and Manufacturing Innovation Learning Laboratory.

Other exclusive summer opportunities include campus visits from successful entrepreneurs who will share their personal and professional experiences, trips to local companies, fieldwork in the Adirondacks, and short trips abroad. Built on the cultural riches of New York's Capital Region, Summer Arch also gives students access to a wide array of activities not available during the traditional fall or spring semesters, including concerts and performances, recreational programming, and local festivals and events.
**STUDENT TESTIMONIALS**

**Grayson Twigg**  
Mechanical Engineering major  
**Six-month co-op at Tesla Motors’ design studio and an internship with SpaceX**  
“I’m a huge advocate of the co-op program. It makes me a really, really competitive applicant. And I don’t have to hope that my resume finds its way through thousands of others.”

**Matthew J. McGivern**  
Business Management major  
**Semester away at UTC Aerospace Systems**  
“Completing a co-op has countless benefits that students may not know about. After working two different internships early in my college career, I decided to pursue a co-op with UTC Aerospace Systems for the first semester of my junior year. Simply put, it was the best decision I could have made. I built an extensive network that includes managers, directors, and executives. I would recommend a co-op for all students looking to strengthen their skills as well as increase their chances of landing a job upon graduation.”

**Megan McNeill**  
Mechanical Engineering and Design, Innovation, and Society major  
**Semester at Nanyang Technical University in Singapore**  
“I had never traveled before and I was a little afraid to go, so I thought ‘I should definitely do this.’ My thought was that if I could live overseas on my own for a semester, I could do anything else.”

**SUMMER ARCH SPECIFICS**

**SEMESTER AWAY**  
During the fall or spring semester of their junior year, students will take part in an intellectual adventure unconstrained by a classroom schedule. Students can take advantage of transformative experiences available off campus, including international travel, internships, co-ops, research opportunities, pursuit of an entrepreneurial idea, and engagement in community service projects.

**International Travel**  
International experiences are an integral part of a well-rounded undergraduate program. Rensselaer provides semester-long study abroad and short-term faculty-led international programs.

**Experiential Learning**  
Internships, co-ops, and research positions are a vital component of the Rensselaer experience. These programs provide students the opportunity to explore their fields of study in-depth, develop on-the-job skills, grow personally, establish professional contacts, and even offset college expenses. Students who participate in co-ops and internships are better prepared for full-time job opportunities.

**CENTER FOR CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CCPD) WORKSHOPS**  
In collaboration with academic departments, employers, and alumni, the CCPD offers workshops focused on preparing students for the semester away and, ultimately, a career or graduate school. A series of “career ready” programs and panels will be offered to Summer Arch students to provide in-depth knowledge about career fields, develop career management skills (e.g. resume writing, interview preparation), and facilitate networking with alumni and industry partners.

**SUMMER ARCH ROLLOUT TIMELINE**  
In 2017, Rensselaer will launch the first of two pilots, and rising juniors (members of the Class of 2019) from the School of Engineering and Lally School of Management will have the opportunity to participate in the Summer Arch.

In 2018, Rensselaer will launch the second pilot, and rising juniors (members of the Class of 2020) enrolled in all schools will have the opportunity to participate in the Summer Arch.

In 2019, Summer Arch will be fully launched.

**Academic Semester Overview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
<th>SUMMER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>On Campus*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Semester Away**</td>
<td>Semester Away**</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>On Campus</td>
<td>Graduate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Required Summer Arch semester  
**Juniors must attend either Fall or Spring semester following the Summer Arch semester