

Department of Economics Alumni Testimonials



Dr. Andrew Davis

“Hi. I’m writing this as Assistant Professor of Economics at Acadia University, where I teach mostly macroeconomics and statistics. I was an undergraduate at Memorial from Fall 2004 to Spring 2008, where I completed my B.Sc. (Hons.) in economics, took a bunch of math courses on the side, and wrote a thesis about economic growth in Newfoundland.

By graduation, I had a degree but also a very generous fellowship to the University of Rochester for further study in economics – full tuition plus \$26,000 (USD!) a year for living expenses. I had also received fully funded offers for graduate study at the University of Minnesota, Queen’s, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Toronto. I completed my Ph.D. in Economics at Rochester in 2014, where I did a bunch of research in empirical macroeconomics – measuring and modelling how people moved through different areas of the labour market over time or how they used personal credit – and started as Assistant Professor at Acadia that fall.

I continue to have lots of good things to say about undergraduate education in economics. Of course, given that I’m supplying it now, I want to keep demand high. But in my biased view, it remains a valuable education. Since starting as a professor two and a half years ago, I’ve also served as an advisor to the Nova Scotia government’s budget process and worked as a statistical consultant for a Halifax health company, Canabo Medical – turns out the CEO is also a Memorial graduate. There’s lots of different opportunities out there for people who can write, present, do math, crunch numbers, and combine that into a compelling logical argument, all of which can be picked up in the course of an economics degree at Memorial. Notably, my opportunities have not been limited to my areas of research specialization – the general tools, principles, and methods have applications in many areas.

Looking back, I would tell my Memorial undergraduate self to stretch a little more than I did. I should have taken a little more computer science, because it would have been very useful for me now. I should have gotten more involved with the student society, though I still keep in touch ten years later with MUN classmates. Being part of the Department, whether that’s as a teaching assistant, research assistant, student society leader, or anything else, is guaranteed to both useful and enjoyable. University has got to be more than sitting in lecture halls for four years, and getting involved in a department where people will get to know your name, will write you a serious, personalized reference letter, will consistently open their office door to you, that matters a lot.

All the best,
Andrew