

Economics Student Profile - February 2016

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When I first entered Memorial University, I knew I wanted to study a discipline that would allow me to develop strong analytical, critical thinking and research abilities. However, it was only after taking the introductory courses that I fell in love with Economics, and began to understand how studying the discipline provides me with a framework to not only understand complex issues faced in my community, province and country -- but also how to propose meaningful recommendations to solve them.

There has been many advantages of studying at Memorial University's Department of Economics. The smaller class sizes encourage class participation and creates a comfortable learning environment, while also providing a number of unique opportunities for their students. There is also generous financial support available in the form of scholarships, including the Chevron Canada Ltd. Term Scholarship which I was awarded this past fall.

One of my biggest accomplishments within the department was serving as a Research Assistant for the Collaborative Applied Research in Economics (CARE). In this role I have developed significant research experience, including authoring the report "*Charting Progress Towards a Better Life in Newfoundland and Labrador*" -- where I compare measurements of well-being as it relates to economic, social, and community indicators in Newfoundland and Labrador and other Canadian provinces. Further, with the support of the department, I was also selected to present this research at the Atlantic Association of Applied Economics 2015 Student Panel in Halifax, NS.

The benefits of studying Economics is not to be understated, and I regularly use the skills developed throughout my degree on a reoccurring basis in my extracurricular and community involvement, non-major coursework, and prior professional work environments (including as a Policy Intern with the Office of the Prime Minister, and as a Student Fellow with the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies). Further, I am set to attend the combined Masters of Business Administration/Law program at Dalhousie University this June -- where I am certain my prior experience critically examining financial markets and public policy will again be of use.

To conclude, I would like to share a quote from one of my favourite economists, Friedrich August von Hayek, that is too-often forgotten:

"The curious task of economics is to demonstrate to men how little they really know about what they imagine they can design."

Photo Credit: Nick Kelly