



My name is Michael Sullivan, and I am graduating from Memorial in Spring 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in economics and pure mathematics (joint major). My initial experience with MUN's economics department came in my first year of study at the university. I had been interested in questions of social science throughout my life upon taking my first economics courses, and I quickly found that economics offered a uniquely attractive framework for exploring these questions. Although the complexities of human institutions had long seemed intractable to me, the mathematical modeling and empirical techniques used by economists struck me as powerful ways to uncover many of society's workings.

During my next three years of study, I had the opportunity to study numerous fields of economics under superb instructors and hence to acquaint myself with many modern economic models. In my coursework, I took particular interest in labour market economics, microeconomic theory, and the financial-market aspects of macroeconomics.

My education in Memorial's Department of Economics prepared me for a number of outside experiences contributing to my economic education. During the summers between Winter and Fall semesters, I worked as a research assistant at the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council and then the Bank of Canada; these experiences allowed me to apply the lessons I took from classrooms to current economic affairs and to data.

Additionally, I was honoured to receive a number of awards associated with my studies in the department. These included the Chevron Canada Endowed and Term Scholarships in Economics and the Robert Westcott Memorial Scholarship. My studies in economics also prompted me to expand my understanding of mathematics, which is of paramount importance in constructing economic models and in using data to test their acceptability. In MUN's mathematics department, I was pleased to receive awards including the W.J. Blundon Scholarship, the Dr. Siegfried Thomeier Prize in Pure Mathematics, and the Mrs. E.D. Matthews Memorial Scholarship in Mathematics and Statistics.

During my undergraduate education, I tremendously appreciated the guidance and encouragement offered to me by the department's faculty. To offer some examples of this support, I was invited to join Collaborative Applied Research in Economics (CARE) research projects by Dr. Wade Locke and Dr. Doug May; I received excellent guidance from Dr. Kam Chu as I wrote my honours essay under his supervision; and I was enthusiastically supported by various faculty members in my applications for graduate studies.

Now that I am graduating, I hope that my next steps will bring me closer to my goal: a career in economic research in which I can continue to investigate the social-scientific questions that have motivated my studies thus far. I will spend the next year as a research assistant at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research before entering the Ph.D. programme at Yale University's Department of Economics, whose offer of admission I have deferred.

As a soon-to-be graduate of one of its programmes, I would recommend studies in the Department of Economics at Memorial to any student interested in generally acquiring a broad suite of analytical skills, in uncovering why societies organise themselves as they do, and in understanding the consequences of public and corporate policies.