

## Petr Kocourek, Undergraduate, Economics and Pure Mathematics, B.Sc.



I come from Heřmaničky, a small village 100 km south from Prague, Czech Republic and I am currently a third year student in Economics and Pure Mathematics at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. Prior to coming to MUN, I lived in Germany for four years (and half a year in the USA) to acquire a Master's Degree in German and French Contemporary Philosophy, as part of the Erasmus Master MUNDUS program financed by the EU.

Originally, I came to MUN to pursue a degree in International Business with the Faculty of Business but the introductory courses in Economics and Basic Calculus convinced me very quickly to reevaluate my choices and focus more towards technical subjects, such as economics and math. I decided on economics, as it offers deep internal perspectives on the core of character and functioning of the world today. I value a combination of exactness and its social approach to current problems. During my studies, I developed an interest particularly in Labour Market Economics, International Economics and Political Economics. At the Department of Economics, I appreciate the combination of rigorous course content with a personal approach, thanks to the smaller classes in the higher level courses and the erudition of the faculty. I also highly value the opportunities to attend guest lectures and panel discussions which were offered just recently by the Department of Economics, as it gives insight of the world outside and into the various fields of economics. My decision to combine economics with mathematics has led by a personal interest to introduce an element of playfulness into my studies, which for me is present in mathematics.

During my studies at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, I was fortunate enough to obtain some awards which have supported my motivation: The Chevron Canada Ltd. Endowed Scholarship in Economics, The MUN Golf Tournament Scholarship and The International Undergraduate Academic Award. I was also happy to join Dr. Fang's Jarislowksy Chair in Cultural and Economic Transformation as one of their research assistants.

In the coming years at MUN I hope to continue to enjoy my studying, to improve my research skills and to eventually earn the right to continue at graduate school.