**Reflections of a Craig Dobbin Scholar**

I completed my MBA at Memorial University Newfoundland during the period of January 2012-January 2013. This opportunity was of great significance to me, not only to have my masters studies funded but also to be given the chance to study and live in different culture and environment. I have always loved to travel and meet new people and my year in Newfoundland was an amazing experience.

My degree at WIT prepared me for my MBA by laying a foundation for the skills and knowledge needed, in introductory courses, and in presentation and research skills. An MBA at MUN requires 20 full credits, and my BBS from WIT counted for 10, reducing the time needed to complete my MBA.

The staff and students at MUN were extremely welcoming. The university has a dedicated International Students office, which sent a representative to pick me up at the airport when I arrived, and were very helpful with any information needed on living and studying in Canada. The faculty at the School of Business were always at hand to help out with any issues, and not just relating to study.

MUN has a great student life also. There is a dedicated Graduate Student Union to assist with studies, and also run the grad student bar, Bitters. It was a little daunting arriving alone in January, but the Grad Student Union had a week of events to start the term, a great opportunity for me to meet some very friendly and welcoming friends, the friendly Canadian stereotype is not a myth! Throughout the year I attended university hosted events such as skiing, snowshoeing, curling, camping, trips to tourist spots, and I was a regular at the weekly Bitters quiz night, fighting hard to win the top prize of a pitcher of the local beer!

The highlight of my MBA was participating in the team of 4 representing MUN at the John Molson International Case Study Competition in Montreal, January 2013. The skills I learned in preparation for the event, analysing a case study and preparing a presentation within three hours, and the experience of a week of competition, along with networking and social events, is something I will always remember, and I’m sure will benefit me.

Having an MBA, and the skills I learned throughout, helped me to secure a job in financial services in Dublin. I am currently studying towards an ACCA qualification, which is internationally recognised. It is my hope to return to Canada to work in the future and the knowledge I acquired at MUN will be invaluable.

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