

Scholarships: assisting tomorrow's insurance professionals

Daniella Laferriere heard about the TIC Scholarship Program in 2014 from her mother who is a partner at TIC full member firm Purves Redmond Limited. At that time, she was starting her second year in commerce at Queen's University, now called the Smith School of Business, and hadn't yet considered entering the insurance industry. Most of what she knew then about being a broker was based on what she learned from her mother. She understood how brokers work with clients and recommend various coverages to mitigate risk, but she was still exploring options.



After winning one of three \$5,000 TIC Scholarships that year, Daniella started working for AIG. She liked her colleagues and found the work interesting, and began to seriously consider entering the insurance industry. The experience gave her a first-hand understanding and appreciation of the industry's breadth and diversity.

In 2015, as Daniella stepped into her third year of business school, she applied to and won a second \$5,000 TIC Scholarship. Needless to say, with tuition and living costs, being a student today is expensive. Winning a total of \$10,000 over two years gave Daniella an incredible boost.

"The scholarship allowed me to focus on my studies while at Queen's," she says, "and gave me the opportunity to spend a semester studying at the Cologne Business School in Germany. Living and studying abroad for a semester was a great learning experience."

Daniella will spend this summer underwriting for AIG, Financial Lines, a three-month internship program which includes a week of training in their New York headquarters. Following this, she will complete her final semester and graduate in 2017 with a degree in commerce.

It can be quite daunting for business students to navigate their way through the broad array of courses offered and find a career path. Winning this scholarship gave Daniella a connection to the insurance industry and a focus. It helped her to choose a summer job and select relevant courses. Receiving these scholarships also opened the door to many industry contacts which have proven to be invaluable.

As Daniella puts it, "Winning this scholarship has opened me up to so many opportunities I never would have imagined. I am very grateful for these opportunities, and I am taking advantage of them as I start my career in the insurance world."

To find out more about the TIC scholarship program, visit <http://www.ticonf.com/tic-scholarship-program/>.