

TIC Scholarships: You'll never know if you don't apply

"Mia, this is PERFECT for you. You HAVE to apply!"

That was the email message that Mia Perrin received from her colleague Lisl Beaton, Claims Manager at Cambrian Insurance, just a few weeks before the deadline last September. Mia immediately doubted her eligibility for this TIC Scholarship opportunity, but Lisl quickly gained referrals from the company's managing director and president. She then convinced Mia that dedication and passion like hers are what perfect candidates are made of.

Lisl was right! Mia submitted her application and won one of three \$5,000 TIC scholarships awarded in October 2017. The timing couldn't have been better. At the time, she was about to reduce her work schedule at Cambrian Insurance in order to focus on her second year in the francophone Business Administration program at Laurentian University in Sudbury.

How does this relate to a career in the insurance industry? Because Mia's family is well-rooted in the industry, you could say that it's in her blood. Her grandfather was an insurance adjuster for many years and later a licensed insurance broker. Beyond this, her father owned and operated his own company, Marc Perrin Insurance Ltd., and later became a managing partner at Cambrian Insurance.

It is therefore no surprise that Mia started working for the company by the time she was 15. Since then, she has held many different positions in both personal and commercial lines, including file clerk, receptionist, technical services, IT assistant and web designer. Today, continuing the legacy, Mia combines her work as webmaster with underwriting for Cambrian Special Risks Insurance Services.

With so much family influence combined with on-the-job experience and education, Mia has picked up a thing or two about what it means to be an insurance broker. "I am learning every day that an insurance broker is a lot more than just a risk mitigator," she says. "Insurance brokers are often first responders in times of crisis; they are trusted advisors whose main focus is to ensure that clients are well-protected and well-served when they need it most."

Now finished her second year of university, Mia is enrolled in a summer class in order to fast-track her studies. She has also registered for the CAIB 2 self-study summer session. Her plan is to continue with full-time studies in the Business Administration program in the fall — and continue to expand her insurance knowledge-base at Cambrian Special Risks by underwriting a growing variety of risks.

Mia would like other students to know that this career path has so much to offer. "It is evolving quickly," she says, "moving towards a much more technologically-involved setting, making it quite interesting and appealing for the upcoming generation."

This scholarship is not only "a huge stress reliever," as Mia puts it. It allowed her to dedicate more time toward homework and studies rather than working. It made a tremendous difference with respect to finances, grade-point average — and confidence moving forward.

To find out more about the TIC scholarship program, visit <https://www.ticbrokers.ca/initiatives/tic-scholarship-program/>.

