

Job and volunteer experiences help prepare for a career in medicine

by Heidi Riley

Post Secondary Experiences

Kyle MacDonald of York is going into his third year of the Life Sciences Program at **Queen's University** in Kingston, Ontario. He plans to go on to medical school, and has used a variety of jobs and volunteer experiences to gain knowledge he can't get out of a text book.

Medical experience gained by working for the Canada Games

This summer, Kyle applied to volunteer for the games. But when **Don Roberts**, Medical Services Coordinator for the 2009 Canada Games saw Kyle's résumé, he offered Kyle a paid position. "Kyle's résumé was really strong," says Don. "His pre-med education made him a good candidate."

Kyle took direction from the Medical Services Coordinator to help with anything that needed to be done, including buying supplies, assembling reference booklets for the volunteer medical personnel, and dealing with scheduling changes.

"I'm learning a lot about which sports need a greater medical focus, how the medical clinics for the athletes are set up and run, and how medical personnel will determine how to care

for an injury," says Kyle. "It was great to meet many of the doctors and physiotherapists who volunteered. I had a great inside view of the games."

Volunteer experience at the QEH

While still in high school, Kyle had his first taste of how a hospital operates when he volunteered at the QEH. He took shifts at the front desk and transported patients to different hospital departments. "I talked to patients and I sat in on speech pathology and rehabilitation sessions," says Kyle. "It was interesting to watch how different therapies could rebuild patients' strength and coordination."

International experience

The summer after grade 12, Kyle was chosen to volunteer with **Junior Team Canada**. This organization sends young Canadians on foreign missions to meet local leaders and gather information about business opportunities. The team visited Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore. In Vietnam, Kyle worked in a facility that helped disabled children. "That was a great learning experience," says Kyle. "I learned how to work with children and with people with disabilities, and I saw how Canada is helping to support people with health issues in other countries."

This past winter, Kyle again joined Junior Team Canada on a mission to Central America. In Costa Rica, while gathering information about free trade issues, he was able to tour a private hospital, where he met doctors and patients. "It gave me insight into the difference between public and private health care, which is not something that I could have experienced at home," says Kyle.

Earlier this summer, Kyle was hired to work for **Walt Disney World** in Florida. Among his many jobs, he worked at the Baby Care Center, where parents and children can get a time-out from the heat and activity, and where lost children can be reunited with their parents.

"Only one employee is on staff at any one time," says Kyle. "I learned how to recognize a child's symptoms and determine what to do next. I learned how to talk to parents and to kids, to comfort and calm children who are lost, and to follow security procedures involved in reuniting lost children with their parents."

"I am interested in going into pediatrics," says Kyle. "The skills needed to deal with patients have to come from my own experience. The skills I learned from my work and volunteer experiences are beyond what we learn in the classroom."



This summer, Kyle MacDonald of York worked for the 2009 Canada Games. The skills and knowledge he gained from this job are valuable in his future plan to become a doctor. "I learned a lot about how to work behind the scenes to provide medical coverage," says Kyle. "I was so glad to be part of the Canada Games experience."

Do you want to work for the Federal Public Service?

by Craig Abbott, Service Canada Labour Market Analyst, 432-6850

Post Secondary Resources

Finding a job is probably the last thing on most students' minds as they return to school this fall. However, the **Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)** will be launching a new campaign in October. People often wonder how they can get a job with the federal government. Working as a student is one way to get your foot in the door.

In an effort to increase recruitment and awareness, **Service Canada** began a **Student Ambassador** program last year. The program was based on a program developed by the **Canada Revenue Agency**. This fall, both Service Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency will have students working on the UPEI campus promoting employment opportunities.



Hannah Visser (left) and Rae-Anne Morrison are Student Ambassadors for Service Canada.

Hannah Visser and Rae-Anne Morrison will be working for the first 12 weeks of the first semester to help students with the application process and to promote student employment opportunities with Service Canada.

Every summer, Service Canada hires a number of **Youth Services Officers (YSOs)** across the Island to work in the Service Canada Centres for Youth. YSOs work in five offices across the Island helping students find summer employment.

Service Canada also offers the **Employment Equity Student Internship Program (EESIP)**. This program hires employment equity member students for positions in administrative support and program management. EESIP positions are open to employment equity members such as persons with disabilities, Aboriginal people and members of visible minorities. These positions are often full-time for the summer months and some students are able to work part-time during the school year.

Throughout most of the first term, Hannah and Rae-Anne will be holding information sessions and talking to students about both short and long-term job opportunities with Service Canada. They will be available to give information on the FSWEP application process and to share their experience working for Service Canada as summer employees.

Working as a student is a great way to get a job with the federal government. There is also a possibility of working full time upon graduation. So don't wait until next spring to start your job search. Keep an eye out for Hannah and Rae-Anne this fall and get the details about student employment opportunities with Service Canada!



To apply for a student job with **Service Canada**, visit www.jobs.gc.ca and click on **students** and then on **FSWEP**. To meet with a Student Ambassador for assistance with the application process,

contact **Hannah Visser** at hvisser@upe.ca or **Rae-Anne Morrison** at remorrison@upe.ca