

## A Sustainable Degree

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Four years ago I stepped foot onto Trent's campus. My seventeen year-old self took those few steps onto grasses I now call *home*, wearing shoes that cost more than my rent does now. At the time there was no way to predict the transformation that would occur to me in the classrooms, fields and coffee shops of the Trent University community. Officially a graduate of Trent, I look back fondly on the journey that took me from a disposable individual to a global, sustainable citizen. From professors who facilitated engaging conversations, to students who invited my curiosity, to staff who fostered my relentless questions about where *stuff* comes from and where *stuff* goes, to community members who let me sit quietly in the back of libraries or off to the side of rallies: thank you. It is the approachability of, and support from, the many individuals who make up the Trent community that I credit my new lifestyles, ideologies and passions. It was in your classrooms, offices, libraries, residence rooms, cafeterias, porches, gyms, streets, parks and endless student spaces, that I was able to start questioning my role as a global, sustainable citizen. I have been fortunate enough to be involved in many facets of the university, from campus groups such as Sustainable Trent and Amnesty International, to varsity athletics, to campus jobs at the athletic centre, Trent security and donning, and various academic departments, such as English, history, Canadian studies, Spanish and business administration; my journey at Trent reflects the diversity in educational opportunities here. While my resume will proudly list all of these involvements, and will in some way qualify me to enter into the *real world*, my survival and happiness there comes from the lessons of many individuals who I met along the way. At Trent there is never a scarcity of people who will sit drinking tea with you for hours, answering questions- but mostly, encouraging them. I leave Trent, only steps into the lifelong journey of sustainability and global citizenship, not sure what I am more proud of: where I am now, or how I got here. I began my journey at Trent with all of the answers and I am leaving Trent with all of the questions.