# Convocation 2017 Spotlight – Trent University: Eliza McColl, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

## 1 minute 22 seconds

[Eliza McColl is standing outside in front of the Otonabee River wearing a Trent University convocation gown and speaking to the camera]

Uh my name’s Eliza McColl and I'm graduating from the biochemistry and molecular biology degree. My program was a really great integration of biology and chemistry. I came in thinking that I wanted to head down the biology stream, but my program offered so many different courses between the two subjects that I didn't even know existed, so I actually ended up pursuing a pathway that I never actually thought was possible when I came into Trent. I've had an incredible amount of hands-on experience: the biochemistry degree, like I said, requires courses from both biology and chemistry, all of which have a lab component up until fourth year, so in first, second, and third year I really got to build my hands-on skills in the lab for both biology and chemistry, and then in fourth year I did an undergraduate research honors thesis which, not only solidified my independent research skills, but it gave me the opportunity to practice writing a thesis, presenting it, and attending a conference where I got to present my research. The medal I'm receiving is the Governor General's silver medal, it's awarded to the undergraduate with the highest average. It's truly an honor to receive a medal like this; to know that your hard work for the past four years has been recognized is really amazing. I’m very excited. Next, I'm headed to the University of Toronto to pursue a master's degree in pharmaceutical sciences

[Trent logo and upbeat music plays]