# Nicholas Fischer - International Development Studies

1 minute and 57 seconds in length

My name is Nicholas Fischer; I’m majoring in International development studies and Political studies at Trent University.

I chose International development studies because coming from a very small town I was often sheltered to the way the world worked.

I wanted to come and explore a broader range of why the world works and who really are the actors in making this world work.

I was drawn to the interdisciplinary aspects of the program.

I wanted to study something that wasn’t so focused, and something that drew on a plethora of disciplines. So International development studies include Sociology, Psychology, History, Economics, and Politics; and with this I could really create a broad view of how the world works and how I could find my place in the world as well.

The learning environment at Trent in my opinion is unlike any other university. I know specifically in International development studies and in Political studies upper year students make study groups for younger students. We always offer our assistance and our knowledge and we’re there for each other in the programs and throughout the Trent campus.

The professor support at Trent is absolutely wonderful. A lot of my professors have backgrounds in Development studies elsewhere, not just in a university context, but actually working with the United Nations or working with the world bank. Their background in this provides such a broad spectrum of how they teach and how they’re passionate about what they teach. The assistance they give to their students is incredible. They are always there; they’ll make time whether it’s within office hours or meeting downtown Peterborough, or meeting elsewhere on campus. They want to make sure you succeed as well.

My single biggest highlight at Trent would be my year abroad in Ecuador. I did it in my third year at university and it involved 4 months within the nation’s capital, at a university studying Spanish politics and culture, and then 4 months of placement. I did my placement in the Ecuadorian amazon. It was a total change of pace for me; especially coming from a small town moving to Peterborough, and then moving to the amazon was mind-blowing. But I wouldn’t have changed it for the world; it definitely changed me as a person and allowed me to put into practice what I’ve been studying at Trent for 3-4 years.

Coming to Trent has changed my goals for the future in insurmountable ways.

So I want to take the knowledge I’ve learned here and put it into a Master’s program or put it into a factor of development where I can work in the government here in Canada or elsewhere, and really try to make an impact in the world.