



# Industry insight from: Andrew Flewelling, PhD.

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## Research Project Facilitator

### About the job

In his day-to-day on the job, Andrew is exposed to a variety of projects, from the planning to the execution stages and advises students in all aspects of their research. This allows him to continue learning, as he spends time searching the literature and reading up on all the fields he is exposed to, at the time of the interview, Andrew was teaching himself how to use R, while reading up on cardiology! Some of the skills that Andrew gained in graduate school that continue to help him today are collaboration and being able to work with a diverse group of individuals, and time management, which, is an ever-improving skill. When it comes to becoming a research project facilitator, you can apply with an MSc, but having a PhD is preferred and Andrew believed that gaining the experience a PhD and post-doc have to offer is a worthwhile endeavor.

### What advice does Andrew have for students?

When Andrew was asked what advice, he would give to graduate students he had a few main points. The biggest piece of advice was to diversify, look for opportunity to get experience in an area that might not seem immediately related to your work. Get involved in collaborative projects, the new skills you will undoubtedly gain will help you as you move forward in academia or in the work force. Additionally, he wanted to let all students know that its OKAY to change your mind! When he originally set out, Andrew had thought he would be in academia for the long haul and although he had a very successful career in his programs, he realized he might be happier in a different setting. Which leads us to the last piece of advice from Andrew; do what makes you happy, not what you think you have to do. The opportunities and experiences that await you are endless, you just need to have the courage to go get them.

### Education

Andrew attended the University of New Brunswick in Saint John, NB graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree with honours in 2010. Working with the Natural Products Research Group, he went on to obtain his Master's degree in 2013, completing part of his research abroad where he isolated fungi from seaweed. Andrew completed his PhD in 2018 during which he focused on developing a prioritization method based on bioactivity profiles, and isolated natural products from endophytic fungi. He then went on to work as a post-doc at the University of Calgary before taking his current role as Research Project Facilitator with Horizon Health Network Research Services at the Saint John Regional Hospital.