

Kate-lyn Lund

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Kate-lyn Lund works as a laboratory instructor at Nipissing University in North Bay, Ontario. Her academic journey began at this same institution. Kate-lyn enrolled in the Biology program at Nipissing where she took a mixture of biology and chemistry courses. In looking for an honours project she elected to work with one of two research chemists at Nipissing where she undertook an organic chemistry project. Through this supervisor she was connected with Dr. Alison Thompson at Dalhousie University.

Following graduation, Kate-lyn began her graduate training in Dr. Thompson's laboratory. Due to her previous experience in both biology and chemistry, Kate-lyn and Dr. Thompson decided to pursue a project exploring structure activity relationships, going beyond a more typical synthesis-based project, investigating di- and tri-pyrrolic compounds. This experience directly prepared her for professional work to come. After attaining her Master's degree Kate-lyn remained in Halifax, working at Dalhousie for a further 6 months.

In 2016, Kate-lyn moved to Montreal and began working as a medicinal chemist for Paraza Pharma Inc, a company involved in drug discovery. Of her coworkers at Paraza, Kate-lyn remarks that everyone was modest and open to learning new things. She stressed that while graduate students learn a lot during their training and over the course of their degree, that learning does not end upon entering industry. She continued to learn more, be challenged further, and grow as a scientist during her time with Paraza.

After leaving Paraza, Kate-lyn returned to Dalhousie as a Part Time Academic for the winter semester of 2018 where she instructed the Principles of Biomolecular and Drug Molecule Design course. This transition to a teaching position served to further her



education, providing important learning opportunities as an instructor. At the beginning of the 2018/2019 academic year Kate-lyn moved again to her current position as Laboratory Instructor at Nipissing University. There she instructs both biology and chemistry students, coming around “full circle” to her own beginnings. As a laboratory instructor her job does not end when students are not in the classroom. She spends much of her time preparing for courses and studying to maintain the knowledge needed to share with her students. She jokingly added that she is instructing some courses which she did not take herself, so the need to learn and become confident with the material is paramount.

While she is not currently conducting her own research, Kate-lyn is content with her current role. She enjoys her job and will work alongside her colleagues toward the development of an Environmental Chemistry major and the ability to offer more diverse chemistry courses at Nipissing. When asked to compare her experiences in industry and academia she found them to be quite different but equally rewarding. In industry there is a strong membership within the team as well as a freedom to work for the day but leave that work in the laboratory when it is time to go home. In academia there is more freedom to take her teaching in interesting directions but also the work has a tendency to follow her outside of class, or even working hours.

Kate-lyn’s advice for a young scientist is as follows: “Be confident but also be modest and open to new learning experiences. Don’t feel stuck in your own research topic. Life will always lead you in new directions.” This advice is strikingly appropriate coming from Kate-lyn as her own journey has taken her through diverse topics of study and working experiences.