

A Summer to Remember: Lia's Experience at the McGill Summer School

This summer, **Lia Hutter**, a 4th-year medical student at the University of Bern, joined the **McGill Summer School in Montreal**. For her, it was not just about studying medicine in a new environment, but about broadening her horizons, making international connections, and experiencing firsthand the importance of global collaboration in healthcare.

"I was motivated by the opportunity to learn more about a different healthcare system and to broaden my horizon by experiencing how medicine is practiced abroad."

Academic and Practical Highlights

One of Lia's highlights was the **McGill Skills Lab**, where she could practice clinical techniques in a supportive environment. She also found inspiration in discussions with specialists across different fields.

A particularly moving moment came during the **palliative care module**, where students had the rare opportunity to speak directly with a patient.

"Being able to ask her questions and hear her perspective was a very moving experience."

Another unforgettable experience was her first chance to insert a **chest tube on a model** — a milestone that reminded her why she chose medicine.

The Value of International Exchange

Beyond the lectures and labs, Lia greatly appreciated the chance to meet fellow students and faculty from all over the world.

"For me this was one of the most enriching and inspiring parts of the program. I gained insights into different healthcare systems around the world and experienced various cultures firsthand."

She also saw the impact of **international collaboration in medicine**:

"International collaboration was something I experienced on a daily basis. The exchanges clearly showed how such cooperation enhances teaching and education."

Networking with McGill faculty opened new opportunities for her, and she now sees the possibility of returning for future research or training.

Montreal – A City Full of Inspiration

Montreal itself was another highlight of the experience. Lia enjoyed studying in excellent academic facilities and soaking up the city's vibrant cultural mix.

“Montreal offered an ideal environment to thrive academically with excellent libraries, modern facilities and highly supportive staff at McGill. Culturally, the city is vibrant, combining English and French influences with both historical and modern elements.”

Key Takeaways

Looking back, Lia feels the program strengthened both her **clinical and communication skills**, as well as her confidence in approaching experts to ask about research opportunities.

Most importantly, she recommends the McGill Summer School to other students:

“I would strongly recommend it to any curious and open-minded medical student. It’s an excellent opportunity to learn a great deal in just three weeks, combining academically challenging sessions with unique cultural experiences.”

And if she had to sum it up in one sentence?

“Working with exceptional people from all over the world who share the same passion as I do.”



