

# Kevin Tyler

**B.Sc. Wood Products Processing (2000)**

**“Volunteer and try everything, because it can be amazingly little that separates you from the next [med school] applicant!”**



**Position:** Resident Physician, Radiology

**Company:** Queen’s University

**Location:** Kingston, ON

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Wood Products Processing (University of British Columbia); Doctor of Medicine (University of British Columbia, Island Medical School)

**Hometown:** Nanaimo, BC

It’s true – the B.Sc. in Wood Products Processing does indeed allow students to complete all the required prerequisites for medical school! Take Kevin Tyler as an example. After graduating from our program in 2000, Kevin went on to medical school. He studied at the University of Victoria, as part of the Island Medical School. Having completed med school in 2008, Kevin is now completing year one of his five years of residency at Queen’s University.

Looking back at his high school years, Kevin laughs when he recalls how he perceived there to be only three occupations: teachers, engineers, or doctors. While he didn’t have a clue what he wanted to do, he did know that he wanted an undergraduate degree of some sort. He decided to go into Commerce, but when he was an undergrad, students could only enter Commerce after their first year. So while Kevin was classified as a pre-commerce student, he was taking a broad range of courses, many of which were science courses. During that year, a friend in the Wood Products Processing program encouraged Kevin to go speak to Simon Ellis, the Program Director. Needless to say, Kevin was sold on the degree. He was interested in the courses, he knew he could do well, and most of all, he liked the idea that he could get a job straight after graduation.

After finishing his undergraduate degree, Kevin decided to travel the world for six months. Six months turned into two years, and along the way Kevin realized that medicine was his true calling. He came back to UBC to finish up a few prerequisites, and then, in an effort to expand his application, he went off to Japan to teach English for a year.

**Key Responsibilities:** The first year of residency involves rotating through the various departments within the hospital. For example, Kevin will be spending four months in surgery and another four months in internal medicine. Years two through five will involve a greater focus on his specialty, which is

radiology. He will be looking at MRIs, ultrasounds, CT scans, and x-rays of chest, muscles and bones in order to learn how to read them, interpret them, and make suggestions based on this analysis.

**Skills Required:** It would definitely help if you like going to school a lot! According to Kevin, anyone who is willing to work hard can be a doctor. He studied with many kinds of people from all walks of life. Doctors can be introverted or extraverted, but perhaps the most important thing is that they should enjoy working with people.

**Why He Loves His Job:** Kevin loves being a doctor because there is always something new to learn. He especially enjoys meeting all the interesting people he encounters on the job.

**Previous Employment & Co-op Experience:** Kevin worked for a variety of companies all across Canada for his co-op work terms, mostly in smaller communities for bigger companies. For his first work term, Kevin was a Production Process Analyst at Willmar Windows in Winnipeg, MA. He worked in the various divisions of the mill in order to report and implement production improvements. Later, Kevin worked in Durham, ON for Interforest Ltd. as an Assistant Production Manager. He spent two work terms at Weyerhaeuser, working as an Assistant Marketing Engineer in Kamloops, BC and as an Assistant Project Manager in Grande Prairie, AB. For his last co-op term, Kevin worked in Prince George, BC at Canfor. While he was on his travels, Kevin ended up working in New Zealand in a Holt-Carter sawmill.

**Advice for Prospective Students:** Kevin loved the variety of classes and co-op work experiences offered through the program. He says it really prepared him for what was coming after graduation. Just having a degree does not mean very much in today's work world, but having work experience, references, and communication skills makes you desirable in any line of work (this includes the pursuit of further education, like medicine or law). If given the choice again after high school, Kevin would repeat his Wood Products Processing degree without a second thought.

**Advice for Current Students:** Kevin advises students to pack as much as they can into their days at school. Try as many new things as possible - if you see something you might be interested in, join it and see if it's for you! Don't just spend all your time studying, because university is the place to meet new people and explore lots of opportunities. Volunteer and try everything, because when you're applying to med school or law school, it can be amazingly little that separates you from the next applicant!