



Christine Davidson

Doctoral Student

Degree(s):

BA Hons. Classical Languages, University of Guelph

MA Classical Studies, University of Waterloo

Current Position:

Doctoral student of Classics at McMaster University.

Crucial and useful skill(s) learned through your studies:

The ability to write clearly and succinctly, to communicate with professionals in a field, to set and reach goals independently, and to overcome challenges and failures.

What career advice would you give to your younger self?

Don't be afraid to allocate more time towards some goals, and less towards others. It's tempting to devote as much time to an assignment worth 10% as a final essay, but time is far better spent sacrificing a perfect score on a quiz to really perfect the assignments that matter.

The same for courses- while a high average feels like the only measurement of academic worth, it's better to get a great grade in that course which interests you and could lead you towards opportunities in your field, and to accept a lower grade in a course with little relevance to your preferred career path. (i.e. why are you trying to ace physics, Christine? You don't even like physics) Just don't be afraid of failure, and understand it's not a commentary on your marketability as a whole, but rather a stepping stone towards understanding what it is that you enjoy and excel at. I'm still working on this.

What is a detail about you that all must know?

I have a wonderful superpower of forgetting entire plot lines to books/ tv shows/movies weeks after reading/watching them. It means that I get to experience them fresh every time and I have a solid rotation of entertainment I re-experience pretty much every year.