

**Experiences and feedback from Summer Students on why completing a placement in the North is beneficial and what students enjoyed during their placements.**

**Pharmacist** ~ It's helpful for networking and making connections in my future field.

**Speech Language Pathologist** ~ This was a great experience to finish my degree. I was hired by the agency and have started a wonderful career with them. I am very thankful to have had this opportunity.

**Medical Student** ~ I think it was important to see how a smaller hospital differs from a larger hospital. I think it's so important to see how different skills are utilized in smaller communities.

**Dietitian** ~ This program provides a unique experience where you can explore the setting and get to know the patient base and find out what would be like to work at the organization.

**Speech Language Pathologist** ~ Often small communities lack the resources a bigger city has; I learn to think on your feet and come up with unique intervention strategies.

**Physiotherapist** ~ Being able to have more exposure in a rural hospital helped solidify my passion for northern healthcare. We must run differently than larger systems in a city. The NOSM Summer Studentship gave me a glimpse into my future by providing me with valuable experience that I otherwise would not have learned in the classroom. Learning hands on from professionals who actually work in rural hospitals everyday provided me with enough knowledge to know that I wish to come back to Northern Ontario after completing my undergrad to keep working in a setting similar to what I experienced this summer.

**Kinesiologist** ~ Training in the community is important to me because it allows me to connect with a diverse group of individuals whom all have living in Northern Ontario as a common baseline. Also, because it allows me to practice what I am passionate about and hope to pursue within my own community.

**Dietitian** ~ Training in a rural setting demonstrates the importance of these various health professional roles and how supportive and caring a rural community is towards its habitants.

**Medical Student** ~ I think it was important to see how a smaller hospital differs from a larger hospital. I think it's so important to see how different skills are utilized in smaller communities.

**Kinesiologist** ~ It helps me make connections and build relationships for when I graduate. It also helps me build a deeper connection within my community.

**Dietitian** ~ You develop a broader perspective on other people's lives that can influence decision making or advocacy in your current education and future employment.

**Physiotherapist** ~ Thank you for this opportunity! Not only have I made up for the hands on learning I missed due to COVID-19, I also gained experienced and made connections to support me onward. I am truly inspired by the professionals I worked with and learned from, and the patients I helped along the way.

**Dietician** ~ I think it is important to grow our health care system and make good quality health accessible for everyone. Many people must travel long distances to get the health care they need, but if we have opportunities for students to learn and grow their knowledge closer in the north, I think they may be more inclined to see the potential for the career opportunities.

**Nurse** ~ It gives great experience if you want to come back in your home community.

**Nurse** ~ Training in the community allows health professionals in training to practice in a real clinical setting and identify passions and interests they may have never known they had. For example, my studentship placement this summer taught me that I have an interest in working in the Emergency Department!

**Pharmacist** ~ To be able to create connections with different healthcare providers in my own community and to work with different patient populations that may be encountered in future practice .

**Nurse** ~ Hands on experience is crucial for more exposure and just increased knowledge and skills as an individual.

**Medical Lab Technologist** ~ It's important because you get hands on experience in the work environment that you plan to return to. You get firsthand experience in a rural hospital and become familiar with the routine of the hospital as well.

**Nurse** ~ Because rural communities hugely benefit from more healthcare professionals, giving patients proper and quality care.

**Medical Student** ~ Getting to know the staff in the hospital, what type of specialties are needed and what kind of health challenges are seen in the community

**Medical Student** ~ This gives a student a better idea of what practicing in Northern Ontario is actually like.

**Nurse** ~ These jobs give students a chance to experience life and work in that community and to learn how to provide care in such a context.

**Medical Radiation Technologist** ~ The rural setting gives you a perfect balance of fast pace but not too fast and you see many diverse cases every day. Thank you for the amazing summer! I would do it all over again!

**Medical Student** ~ Smaller communities often lack the resources that bigger city companies have. Learning to think on your feet and come up with unique intervention strategies is necessary.

**Nurse** ~ Training in the community is important to me as I gained different experiences and knowledge related to the specific community. Being immersed in an environment relevant and practical to my area of study (nursing) helped me understand how health professionals work within a Northern Ontario community. I learned about the health challenges Northern Ontario communities face and some of the solutions to meet the community's needs. These interactions and discussions highlighted areas of practice I can contribute to in the future and allowed me to collaborate with a multidisciplinary team. These placements encourage health professionals in training to consider practicing in Northern Ontario and rural communities.