

## Erica

Markham, Ontario

Specialist in Accounting, Class of 2020

**Why did I choose Rotman Commerce?** Since discovering the possibilities to thrive within the vast world of business from a young age, there was little confusion in deciding what field I would focus on during applications. However, after completing my high school years with positions as Co-founder and Chairperson within my chapter in the Target Alpha Stock Trading Competition, various event lead positions in school clubs and councils, and being selected as the winner in a Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (MLSE) Marketing plan competition, I could not immediately pinpoint which stream or combination was the key source of my passion, and which I could picture myself in ten years later. I realized that the most idealistic university for me would provide a wide-scope lens to learn about different specialists early-on, have opportunities for me to contribute and apply my learning, as well as supply a variety of essential resources I would need to develop the important skills necessary to grow within the competitive field. Research on the prestigious title led me to Rotman, and my parents' word as alumni only convinced me that I was making the right choice.

**What do I do outside of class?** Especially during the hectic school-year, I believe it is essential not to overlook the importance of maintaining good health, so I like to exercise at the Athletic Centre whenever I have time. Furthermore, outside of class I contribute to the start-up of the Rotman Houses Program through two lead positions, work as the Event Planning and Marketing Assistant for Rotman Commerce, as well as being involved with a variety of clubs and associations such as the Rotman Commerce Marketing Association (RCMA).

**What surprised you about Rotman Commerce?** Very common stereotypes everyone hears about Rotman include the intimidating class sizes and the tougher nature of the work compared to other schools. After enrolling in a variation of first and second year courses within the program and electives in different departments, I saw the misconceptions within the rumours (and even wrote a post on this topic for "The New"). Regardless of the size of the classes, from a course in a college classroom to Convocation Hall, I still had the chance to enhance my understanding of concepts or clarify questions directly with the knowledgeable professors and TAs.



**What is my advice to incoming students?** At some point during your first year, regardless of what you are doing, you will feel like you do not have enough time. So always plan ahead and stay organized. I recommend getting used to using an agenda, wall calendar, or digital calendar to make sure no deadlines sneak up on you, and you can make the best use of your free time (Coming from a daily long distance commuter, free time that can be used is indescribably important).

