

## Testimonial Letter

“I hear, and I forget I see, and I remember I do, and I understand.” —Ancient Chinese proverb

When I was about to write my testimonial I looked up the definition of education. Google gave me two different definitions the first one being “the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university.” and the second one “an enlightening experience”. I laughed when I read the definitions, not because I found them funny, but because they were two totally separate definitions and they shouldn't be. This is the problem with the traditional education system. People are too focused on ensuring that students are taught every single aspect of the curriculum that they lose sight of the experiences that are equally as valuable to us. Education should not be curriculum OR experience, it should be curriculum AND experience. Beyond Borders is one of the only programs that has a perfect balance of experience and curriculum. This semester is the only time in my life where I can say that I've wanted to go to school every day. Every morning I wake up and wonder what wild adventure we'll go on, whether it be exploring the banks in downtown Guelph or filming an apprentice challenge in such short time restraints. I never know what's in store for us but what I do know is that no matter what I'll have a great experience. Beyond Borders is a unique program that challenges you and tests your leadership abilities through unique challenges and difficult tests. Were taught curriculum the way it's taught in university but with different creative aspects that got everyone excited and ready to learn. When I invested myself in this program I knew that I was going to have fun, but I had no idea that I would learn everything I did, gain as many valuable life lessons, meet and love 43 new people and have this much fun all at the same time. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity I was lucky enough to be given in Beyond Borders. In a matter of only a few months I have changed so much as a person in such a positive way. The challenges and projects we have worked on are nothing that I could ever experience in the traditional schooling system. Any student who has the chance to be apart of such an amazing program in the future is luckier beyond any means.

Jenna Falconer Beyond Borders 2015