

## How My Disability Shaped My Decision to Study Nursing

From a young age, I have been captivated by the world of healthcare. My mother, a dedicated family physician, has been a constant source of inspiration. Watching her care for her patients with compassion and expertise instilled in me a deep respect for the medical profession and a desire to follow in her footsteps. However, my journey towards a career in healthcare took on a new dimension when I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.

Receiving the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis was a pivotal moment in my life. The initial fear and uncertainty were overwhelming, and I worried that the physical limitations imposed by the disease would force me to abandon my dreams of working in healthcare. The thought of not being able to pursue my passion was disheartening. However, my experiences with my rheumatologist and the nurses who cared for me during this challenging time transformed my perspective. The care and support I received from my healthcare team were nothing short of extraordinary. My rheumatologist's expertise and the nurses' unwavering dedication not only helped me manage my condition but also reignited my passion for healthcare. I realized that nurses and other healthcare professionals play a crucial role in people's lives, providing not only medical care but also emotional support and reassurance. Their compassion and commitment left a lasting impression on me and deepened my desire to become a nurse.

My diagnosis exposed me to the healthcare system in ways I had never experienced before. I saw firsthand how impactful a strong and caring healthcare support system can be, especially during times of fear and uncertainty. The empathy and understanding shown by my healthcare providers made a significant difference in my journey, and I knew that I wanted to be able to offer the same level of care and support to others. The experience of living with rheumatoid arthritis has given me a unique perspective on the importance of healthcare. It has taught me resilience, empathy, and the value of perseverance. I have learned to navigate the challenges posed by my condition and have developed a deep appreciation for the healthcare professionals who have supported me along the way. This journey has solidified my decision to pursue a degree in nursing at the University of Alberta.

I am determined to use my experiences to make a positive impact on the lives of others. I want to be a source of comfort and support for patients facing their own health challenges, just as my healthcare team was for me. My goal is to provide compassionate and comprehensive care, ensuring that my patients feel heard, understood, and cared for. I believe that my personal experiences with rheumatoid arthritis will enable me to connect with my patients on a deeper level and offer them the empathy and understanding they need.

In conclusion, my disability has played a significant role in shaping my decision to study nursing. It has reinforced my passion for healthcare and inspired me to pursue a career where I can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. The challenges I have faced have only strengthened my resolve and commitment to becoming a nurse. I am excited to embark on this journey and look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the healthcare field, providing the same level of care and support that I received during my own health journey.

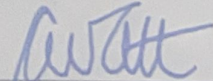


This is to certify that

***Tiaan Botha***

has successfully completed the requirements  
for graduation from  
Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School

June 26, 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Carol Grant-Watt,  
Head of School

January 17, 2024

**Tiaan (Tiaan) Botha**  
103 Aspen Stone Way SW  
Calgary AB  
Canada T3H 0M2

Dear Tiaan,

Congratulations!

You have been admitted to the University of Alberta. We are happy to have you as part of our vibrant campus community.

This letter contains important information about the conditions of your offer of admission so please review it carefully. In order to retain this offer, you must maintain any academic requirements outlined in this letter and submit required documents by the deadline.

Please download a copy of your admission letter for your records. You will be able to access your admission letter in Launchpad until the Winter term add/delete deadline of the academic year in which you were admitted. Add/delete deadlines are included in the [University Calendar](#).

**Faculty:** Faculty of Nursing  
**Program:** Bachelor of Science in Nursing

**Term:** Fall 2024  
**UAlberta Student ID:** 1848955  
**CCID:** tiaan

To retain this offer of admission, you must:

- Present a minimum combined average of 70% at the final Grade 12 (or equivalent) level among the five required courses for your program
- Present a minimum passing grade at the Final Grade 12 (or equivalent) level in each of the five required courses for your program.
- Meet English Language Proficiency requirement(s), if applicable.
- Submit required outstanding items by the document deadline of August 1st.

Please note:

1. It is important that you maintain your grades and submit final documents in order to retain your offer. Please visit this [link](#) for document deadlines.
2. Your offer of admission may be revoked if:
  - There is a discrepancy between the courses and marks submitted on your application and the information received in your final, official transcripts and documents
  - Your final calculated average is significantly lower than the average presented at the time of this offer of admission

### **ACCEPT YOUR ADMISSION OFFER**

To confirm your intention to attend the University of Alberta, you will need to accept your offer and pay a non-refundable tuition deposit by the deadline indicated in the UAlberta Launchpad portal. Find out more about the [tuition deposit and how to pay](#). Exemptions may apply.

### **ACCESS TO BEAR TRACKS**

Once you have completed the steps to accept your offer, you will be able to use [Bear Tracks](#) to view, and in some cases, register for classes. Your faculty may follow up with registration information details, if applicable.

### **TRANSFER CREDIT**

You may be eligible for transfer credits towards your degree program. When transfer credit has been assessed by your Faculty, you will be able to view your Transfer Credit Report in Bear Tracks.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS**

The University of Alberta offers more than \$28 million in undergraduate awards each year. In fact, one in five first-year students will receive one. Learn more and apply online at our [Awards website](#).

### **START IN RESIDENCE**

As a new incoming student, you are guaranteed a spot in residence! In order to secure your spot, you must apply for residence by April 30 (guarantee applies to North Campus only). Learn more at our Residence website: [North Campus & Campus St. Jean](#)

### **SUBMIT OUTSTANDING DOCUMENTS**

Check your UAlberta Launchpad portal to find out which outstanding documents you will need to submit to finalize your admission. Ensure documents are submitted by the [document deadline](#). Any other academic conditions that have been noted by the Faculty will also need to be met.

### **LET'S GET STARTED**

You have made a great choice to continue your academic pursuits at the University of



Alberta, regularly ranked as one of the Top 5 universities in Canada and Top 100 in the world. Here, you will find yourself among the best students and scholars and will be part of a dynamic university that offers multiple campuses, state-of-the-art facilities and world-class resources. We also have extensive student services to help you succeed. We look forward to seeing you here!

Sincerely,



Norma Rodenburg  
Acting Vice-Provost and University Registrar

#### STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

This document shall be considered an official correspondence from the University of Alberta, whether in print or electronic form.

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This communication is intended solely for the recipient to whom it is addressed, as it contains confidential, personal, and/or privileged information. For more information, visit our [Access to Student Information policy](#) in the University Calendar.

#### Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Alberta, its buildings, labs, and research stations are primarily located on the traditional territory of Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, and Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe nations; lands that are now known as part of Treaties 6, 7, and 8 and homeland of the Métis. The University of Alberta respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems, and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations.





**ALBERTA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY**

28 OKI DRIVE NW  
CALGARY AB T3B 6A8  
Phone: 403-955-3136  
Fax: 403-955-2215

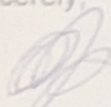
25 July 2023

Patient: **Tiaan Botha**  
Date of Birth: **2/8/2006**  
Date of Visit: **25 Jul 2023**

To Whom it May Concern:

Tiaan Botha was seen in my clinic on 25 Jul 2023 at 9:00 am. Please note that Tiaan Botha is a patient of the Alberta Children's Hospital Pediatric Rheumatology clinic. He has the diagnosis of juvenile idiopathic arthritis ANA positive and is under my care as his Primary Pediatric Rheumatologist. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Nicole Anne-Marie Johnson, MD