



September 2016 Issue 6

world student

**CHINESE
NEW YEAR IN
MALAYSIA**

TRAVEL GUIDE TO KUALA
LUMPUR

YOUR POETRY

WINNERS OF THE

COBIS COMPETITION

Plus: Q&A with Olympic athlete Iwan Thomas, and experiences, articles and news from students worldwide

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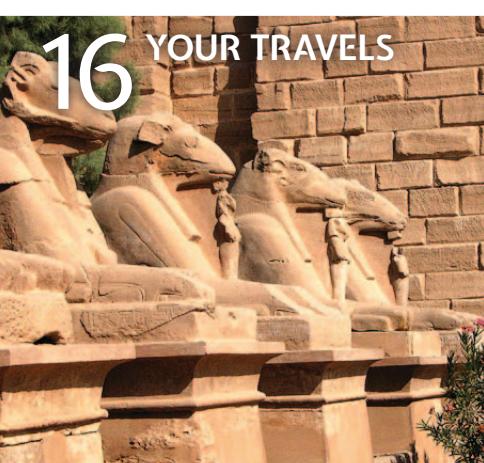
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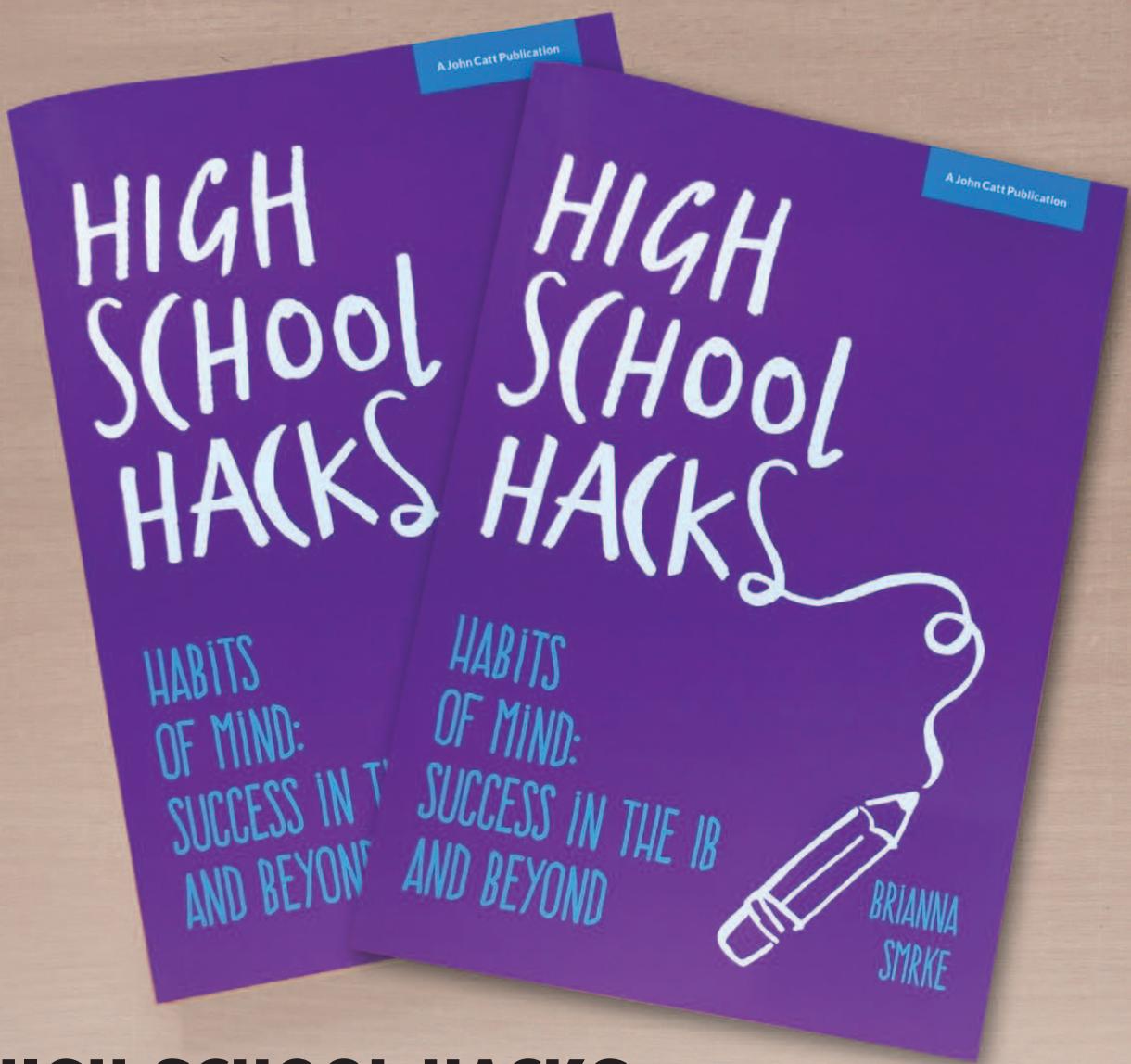


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HIGH SCHOOL HACKS

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Paul Campbell, Head of Outreach and Development, IB Americas

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Welcome!

Welcome to world student number 6,
We've been up to our usual tricks,
This issue is definitely jam packed
So pull up a chair, but don't take a nap.

Excuse my rhyming introduction,
We've had some poetry in production,
Page 64 shows the winners,
They are better than all the beginners.

The Grand Canyon, cruises, Thailand
Moving from Budapest to the Netherlands
This issue features all of that
As well as Egypt's giant cat

You can learn of Malaysia on page 13
Lena makes it sound like heaven.
Diwali, Hari Merdeka and yummy cuisine
She speaks of places that have to been seen.

There's also an interview in this issue,
(Do not fear, you won't need a tissue),
Iwan Thomas who ran for gold,
Writes on page 58 so go and behold.

Before I bore you all to sleep,
Or my poetry makes your weep,
Flip the page, you must proceed,
Some great articles you must read.

If, in number 7 you want to feature
No need to wait for your teacher
Grab your laptop, get on writing
About any topic you find exciting.

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John Catt Educational Ltd, 12 Deben Mill Business Centre,
Old Maltings Approach, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1BL, UK.
Company registration 5762466

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Printed by Micropress, Reydon, Suffolk IP18 6DH.

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COBIS AND WORLD STUDENT MAGAZINE

As we burst into the new academic year, it provides us all with fresh opportunities and exciting new challenges. This is true, not only for students, but for teachers, parents and your wider school communities.

In this engaging issue of World Student Magazine, you'll find stories which inspire you to get involved or participate in something new. With articles from students in the USA, Egypt, The Netherlands, Malaysia, the UK and many more, let this be the motivation for you to move out of your comfort zones. This edition contains interesting articles on technology, charity work, personal identity, moving to university and studying abroad. There's even a revealing Q and A with Iwan Thomas, the athlete who holds the British record for the fastest 400 metres; after this electric summer of Olympic sport, what could be more inspiring?

COBIS is proud to develop and deepen its student-centric focus for this year,

with more than 10 events, competitions and awards for students of all ages to participate in. From the COBIS Games to the Young Scientist Film Awards, there is something for everyone. For more information on our student benefits and events, please visit cobis.org.uk/students. This edition contains the winning entries for the COBIS Poetry Competition from last year; well done to all the students who took part in COBIS student events and congratulations to those who have been published in this edition, you can read their fantastic entries on pages 50-55. A special thanks to John Catt Publishing who generously sponsored the prizes for last year's Poetry Competition.

If you would like to see your name in print, then please do get in touch with the editor, Sophie Perry. We welcome articles, stories, insight pieces, columns, interviews and photographs from students around the world, you may even make the front cover! COBIS hosted a conference for more than 700 teachers, leaders and educators in May with the

umbrella theme of storytelling – I am sure you all have your stories to tell and we want to read them.

Before you turn the page and immerse yourself in the magazine, from myself and the whole team at COBIS, I wish you a happy and successful academic year and we look forward to meeting some of you at one of the many COBIS Student Events taking place during 2016 and 2017. ●

Colin Bell, COBIS CEO

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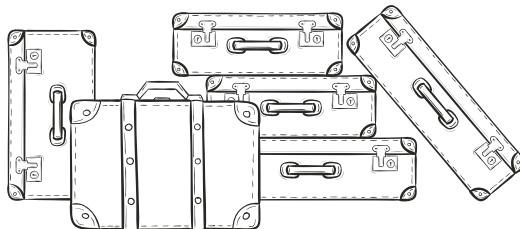




Photography by Liisa Toomus

NUMINOUS TRAVELS

ALL LOVE IS GOOD LOVE, BUT ONLY AS LONG AS WE STAND UP AND DEFEND IT
BY LIISA TOOMUS



Note: For a long time, I considered not publishing this piece, and to only keep it for myself as I consider parts of it to be too personal. A lot of this was written with hastily typing fingers and an angry mind trying to understand and process the injustices of this world, and how easy it is to take privileges for granted; privileges such as showing affection to your significant other in public, for example a kiss on the forehead or by holding hands. Though, in June, I decided that I had no other choice than to share this piece. Largely because on the 12th of June 2016, something that never should have happened did happen; an armed man walked into a gay club and committed one of the most horrible massacres in modern US history, and yet some people still dispute his actions being a crime of hate against the LGBT community. Straightaway I grasped that it always is the time to remind people of the importance of love and not hate, and so you find yourself reading my chronicle for this issue.

All love is good love. Unless anyone is hurting you, or bothering you, their life and life choices should not be one of your concerns. That's the mantra my mom would spread when I was growing up in Sweden. Old, young, new, rapid, two men, two women, and anything else. Nobody else's love would ever be in my way of being, so I should not bother. Nor should anyone else.

2013 and one of the top headlines in Sweden is about a priest refusing to wed gay couples. One of the top scandals in the papers is that the church, which for hundreds of years was an

institute frowning upon gay people and cursing them to go to hell, now in 2013 only had one conservative priest left refusing to let go of those passé ideals. Four years earlier, in 2009, Swedish law had been changed to finally acknowledge gay marriage. I was proud to be Swedish; part of people embracing all sorts of love.

Fast forward to 2016 and the start of May. I'm sitting on a bench in a park in England. It all started towards the end of 2015 with an open bar, too many drinks, and an accidental kiss with the wrong boy in the club, namely, one of my closest friends. Throughout that year we both remained friends, border-line between friends and flirts, until months later when we ended up in a park admitting that we liked each other.

2016, an evening in May, and my only worry is that the boy I liked would not like me back, and that the park would close earlier than expected. "I'm worried that I might have caught the emotions" I let out. I'm stubborn and shy, and he's the same way. He's staring out somewhere at the lake in the distance and lets out "I think we might be in the same boat then." Two hours later and the same bench is now in the dark; only now with two kids sharing long hugs and entwined hands. Once we left we realized that we've been locked in a dark park in the middle of England.

7:31am the next day. I wake up alone in my room, ready to go for a run in the same park. I become reminded that love, or at



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A photograph of two students, a young man and a young woman, standing outdoors. The young man on the left is wearing a maroon zip-up jacket over a white t-shirt with a blue graphic, and he is holding several thick books. The young woman on the right is wearing a blue plaid jacket over a pink top and is holding a book titled 'Business and management HL'. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, there are green hills and buildings, suggesting a scenic, possibly European, location.

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least being able to openly show love, is just a privilege that some people are fortunate to share by opening up my browser in a half awake state. There still remain copious amounts of discrimination in the world, which is manifested in two angry and upset statuses at the beginning of my Facebook feed. At the end of 2015, I had met one of the friendliest people during a pre-drinks on the opposite end of my university campus. He was tall and had an ease for talking to people. His hands would always gracefully gesticulate to his stories, while he'd start to laugh effortlessly in conversations, often to one of his witty jokes about his theology studies. We'd bump into each other again at different parties and in clubs over the year, and sometimes share a chat over coffee in the student union at our university. As I had suspected the first time I met him, I soon found out that he was gay. My heart was filled with anger when I woke up that morning, glaring at my phone screen, only to find out that the same witty, tall boy had ended up being punched in the bathroom of a night club for being gay, "even though he had said nothing at all" as one of the girls on my timeline had written.

During the very same early hours of Saturday, right after my best friend and I admitted to liking each other, another one of my friends was beaten up for his belief in love. One of his friends wrote an angry Facebook status where the line "What's even worse is that no one bothered to stand up for him or even help him" stood out to me. All love is good love. Nobody else's love would ever be in my way of being, so I should not bother. Nor should anyone else.

To be able to show affection and love by hugging and holding hands in public is a privilege based on luck. Some countries like Uganda are tightening their laws against gay marriage and to participate in events like Pride parades is a bold move risking one's life. My country, collectively shaming a priest for not wedding gay couples, is an anomaly; something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected. I am confident that many of the people in the bathroom shared no hatred or anger, but I hope that anyone reading this is aware that by not stepping up in times of injustice, you're taking the side of the oppressor.

For me, what is standard, normal and expected is to speak up and stop hatred. Because all love is good love, even when we need to stand up and defend it. ●

Follow Liisa's travels, musings and photography on social media.

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Numinous Travels is written by Liisa, who is Swedish-Estonian and grew up traveling frequently. During the last few years she has studied in Argentina, Bhutan, Costa Rica, England, Greece, India, Japan, New Zealand, Tanzania, Turkey and the USA. Her column is about a variety of topics she holds close to her heart: feminism, identity, growing up, cultural awareness and politics. This issue marks the 1-year anniversary of her column at World Student!

Name: Liisa Toomus

Age: 20

Hobbies: photography, running, writing, reading

Studies: International Relations & Global Issues at the University of Nottingham (England)

Lives: Warsaw, Poland during 2016/2017

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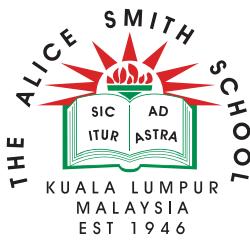
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A GUIDE TO... KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

LENA FRICKER WRITES ABOUT SOME OF THE BEST THINGS TO SEE AND
DO IN HER HOME CITY OF KUALA LUMPUR



Kuala Lumpur, the vibrant capital of Malaysia, is a city with something for everyone. The sites, activities, architecture and more, combine to create a perfect blend of traditional and modern culture. Malaysia, and Kuala Lumpur in particular, is one of the only places in the world where a whole range of ethnicities are encompassed in a single place, including Malays, Chinese and Indians (which make up the three main ethnic groups).

Kuala Lumpur's city center is perhaps most famous for its iconic Petronas Twin Towers and KL Tower located in the heart of the metropolis. These buildings have become tourist attractions

over the years and are some of the best places in the city for an aerial view of Kuala Lumpur. The revolving restaurant at the top of the KL Tower and the Heli Lounge Bar are also popular destinations for a sunset dinner and drinks with a breathtaking skyline experience.

Although Kuala Lumpur has evolved into a modern city, there is still evidence of its origins all around. Chinatown on Petaling Street, the Islamic Arts Museum and Merdeka Square remind locals as well as tourists of the dynamic culture and historic traditions that run deep within Kuala Lumpur's roots along with the country as a whole.



MAJOR EVENTS IN KUALA LUMPUR

Hari Raya Aidilfitri

Hari Raya is a nationwide celebration marking the end of the fasting month. This year it fell on the 6th of July, with celebrations usually lasting around a month. Although Hari Raya is a celebration for Muslims, it, much like all the religious festivals in Malaysia, encourages everyone, no matter what race or religion, to get involved. Malaysian Muslims will often invite friends, family and more to come and eat, dance and give out 'Duit Raya' (packets of money) to commemorate the fasting month.

Deepavali

Deepavali, or 'Diwali', is the most festive holiday of the year for Malaysian Hindus. Deepavali is also known as 'the Festival of Lights' due to the clay lamps, which are seen to light up homes during the celebrations. Houses are decorated with colourful paper lanterns and with 'Kolam' or 'Rangoli' this time of year. Kolam or Rangoli are intricate, temporary floor designs made out of dyed rice and colourful powders.

Chinese New Year

The Chinese have had centuries-long presence in the country, especially in Penang – one of the biggest cities in Malaysia. Chinese New Year is also called 'Spring Festival' and 'Lunar New Year' because it occurs in spring and is dated based on the Chinese lunar calendar. Apart from the whole host of amazing Chinese food served at open houses all around the country, other traditions include: 'Yee Sang', a vegetable medley dish eaten by throwing its pieces high in the air with chopsticks to bring good luck; hanging up 'duilian,' scrolls bearing famous lines from Chinese poetry in traditional characters; attending lion and dragon dances; betting on card games and giving out gifts of money in 'Ang-Pao' packages.

National Day, or Hari Merdeka

Hari Merdeka (Malaysian for 'Independence Day') refers to the day when Malaysia gained independence from the British Empire. It occurs on the 31st of August and is a time of parades and other festive activities.



WANT TO SHARE YOUR TRAVEL TIPS?

We're looking for students to write this travel guide feature for future issues. Email us at editor@world-student.com to find out more.

**TRAVEL
TIPS?**

LOCAL CUISINE

Malaysia is perhaps also most famous for its delicious local cuisine. What is interesting about Malaysian food is that Chinese, Indian and Malay cuisines have taken inspiration from each other, often adopting similar techniques and sharing common ingredients to create the best tasting dishes.

Chinese cuisine

One of the most popular and authentic Chinese – Malaysian dishes that originated in Klang, Selangor is the 'Bah Kut teh'. Bah Kut teh in English means Pork Rib Tea and is a popular herbal soup usually served for breakfast or lunch. 'Yong Tau Fu' is another local delicacy. 'Tau Foo' in Chinese means tofu and 'Yong' means fish so it is tofu in Fish Mousse. Another favourite of mine are wanton noodles, which are thin egg noodles, blanched in boiling water. A clear soup broth is then poured over the noodles and garnished with wontons (pork dumplings) and char siu sauce. Wantan Mee is served dry, usually with a small bowl of soup on the side. Another personal recommendation to try if you visit Kuala Lumpur or Penang is 'Char Kway Teow'.

This is the national noodle dish literally translated as 'stir-fried rice cake strips'. Some of the best places to eat these Chinese dishes are Jalan Loke Yew, Jalan Alor as well as Georgetown in Penang.

Indian and Malay cuisine

In Malaysia, Indian cuisine often blends in with Malay cuisine, adopting the name 'Mamak' (Indian-Muslim) food. Available throughout the country, the buzzing Mamak stalls are popular among locals as they offer a wide range of food and some outlets are open 24 hours a day. A type of Indian-Malay meal served at most Mamak shops is 'Nasi Kandar', Biryani rice with meat, pickled vegetables and papadums along with the famous 'Roti Canai', a yummy flatbread served with curry on the side known as 'dhal'. Nasi Lemak, Banana leaf (rice, vegetables and meat served on a bright green banana leaf), Curry Laksa and Teh Tarik (sweet tea) are also a must try. The best places to eat any Indian or Malay cuisine are at Mamak restaurants or stalls in Bangsar, Brickfields or Petaling Jaya.

LANDMARKS AND ACTIVITES

Whether you are in Kuala Lumpur for a few days, weeks or months, these places are essential landmarks to visit if you get the chance. I have split them into urban and more traditional locations – following the spirit of Kuala Lumpur with its fascinating blend of modern and old.

Urban landmarks:

Twin Towers

Take pictures of the towers from the KLCC Park and go inside the Suria KLCC Shopping Centre for some great bargains. Petrosains and Aquaria KLCC are worth the visit, especially for teenagers and younger children.

KL Tower and its revolving restaurant

Heli Pad Lounge and Bar

Both of the above have breathtaking city views along with delicious food and drinks.

Troika Dining

A great place to treat yourself after a long day of walking around the city with delicious food at some of the most sought after restaurants in KL.

Low Yat Plaza

A place where you can buy all the electronics you may need for discounted prices.



Batu Caves

Traditional landmarks:

Chinatown

Located on Petaling Street, Chinatown is famous for its hundreds of hawker stalls and shops selling goods and food. This is the place to come for cheap, but fake, branded items. Bargain with the stall owners for a hilarious taste of true Malaysian bargaining culture, but try not to get cheated for your money. Buy a friend or family member a Gucci handbag and see if they can tell if it's any different from an original!

Batu Caves

Batu Caves is a historic site of a Hindu temple and shrine, attracting thousands of visitors, especially during the annual Hindu festival, Thaipusam. The caves are limestone outcrops located just north of Kuala Lumpur and its main attraction is the large gold statue of the Hindu God at the entrance, along with the steep climb up of over 200 steps. Be wary of the monkeys on the way up!

Perdana Botanical Gardens

Hibiscus Garden

Bird and Butterfly Garden

All the above are a great chance to embrace Malaysia's bio-diverse ecosystems, and include well-known national flowers like the Hibiscus and Rafflesia.

Islamic Arts museum

Get more of an insight into Islamic Art and the history behind the intricate designs here.

Merdeka Square

Visit the place where the Union Flag was lowered and the Malayan flag was raised for the very first time in 1957. From then on, Merdeka Square has been the venue for the annual Independence Parade.

Central Market

Get immersed in an air-conditioned version of Petaling Street where you can buy a whole host of traditional Malaysian goods.

National Museum Negara

Learn more about the engaging history and culture behind Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia as a whole.

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BEST KEPT SECRETS

Penang, Ipoh & Malacca

If you have more time in Malaysia and have the opportunity to venture outside of Kuala Lumpur, I would highly recommend taking the train, bus or car to Penang, Ipoh and/or Malacca. These three places are extremely famous for their amazing food and rich history. They are not too far outside of KL and are definitely worth it for a nice change from the bustling streets of the capital.

Bukit Tabur

One of my best-kept secrets, however, is located in KL. It is a mountain called Bukit Tabur. Grab some willing hiking partners and head off on the trail at 5am to reach the summit in time for sunrise. The views are magical and overlook the Klang Gate Dam on one side and provide a KL city view on the other. The hike is strenuous and the early wake up is tough, but the view and experience make up for it!

Sandy Coasts

For a beach getaway you could also visit the sandy coasts of Malaysia, including Langkawi, Perhentian, Redang or Pangkor. You can relax by the beach, take a dip in the warm seas, go snorkeling and get a lovely tan – but remember sunscreen as the Malaysian heat is unforgiving.

East Malaysia

These places require more travel time and a flight. Sabah and Sarawak pride themselves on their natural ecosystems, including rainforests and animals like orangutans and sun bears. In Sarawak there are Orangutan reserves and habitats you can visit all around, including Kubah National Park where you can interact with the Orangutans by feeding them and building nests. It is also worth visiting the Long Houses where the indigenous people reside in order to see their living 'Kampongs' in KL.

Perdana Botanical Gardens

DISCOVERING THAILAND

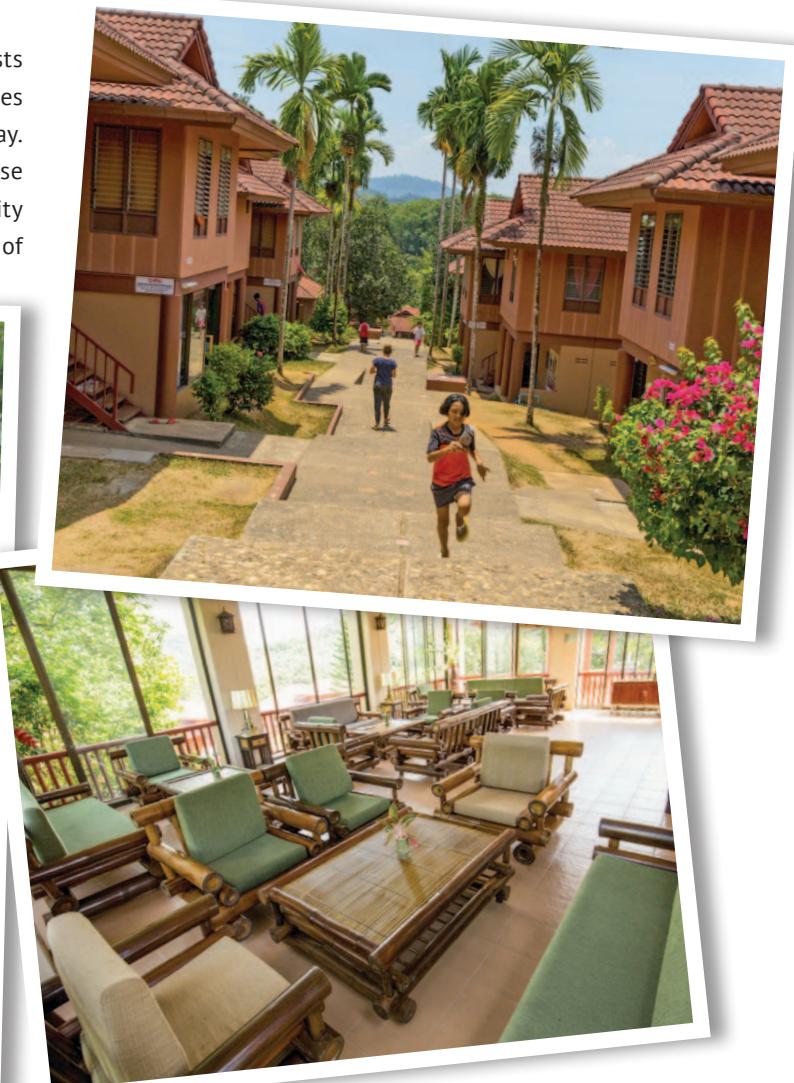
MIKAILA HUDSON TALKS ABOUT HER TIME VISITING
YAOWAWIT SCHOOL IN THAILAND

After visiting more than 20 countries and staying with more than 50 hosts, I have finally found home: Yaowawit School, Thailand. It's a place where there's lots to do and learn, the people are welcoming and kind, the food is delicious and the weather is almost always superb. My mornings start with greetings from dozens of children, from the casual "hey" of the older ones to the full on flying-leap hug of the kindergarteners. I then get to work, doing my part in helping to give every one of those children the education and care they deserve.

Behind the beautiful beaches and temples that most tourists and travellers see in Thailand, there are extreme inequalities that millions of impoverished Thai people face every day. Yaowawit School's mission is to provide children from these kinds of backgrounds with the opportunity to gain a quality education and break free of the poverty cycle. Graduates of

Yaowawit have gained scholarships to study in Phang Nga and Phuket, as well as abroad in Australia and the Netherlands. With a strong focus on English and life skill training, Yaowawit enables underprivileged children to make their dreams become realities.

Volunteering at Yaowawit has also provided me with a lot of opportunities to grow. Over the past six months, I have been able to gain experience in education, fundraising, marketing,





writing and editing as well as hospitality. I have developed my organizational, communication and computer skills, and I have become more confident, resilient and flexible too. Being here feels so right to me that I've decided to stay and work here full-time now, while doing a degree in education and development by correspondence.

The best part of being here for me is spending time with the children, talking, playing games and in Reading Club. Reading Club is open every evening for any child who wants to read in English to volunteers. My favourite moments are making up songs to help children remember difficult words and whenever a child meets one of their goals (eg. finishing book 30 – YAY!). It's not easy to read in a second language at age seven, but so many of the children are so motivated to learn. Helping them in this way is very rewarding.

Besides being fun, spending so much time with the children is also a great way to learn about Thai culture. Volunteers are invited to take part in all activities and festivals that the children do including going to the Sunday market where I buy all my fruits (and lots of Thai deserts), visiting local waterfalls and decorating banana leaf boats with flowers and candles to float down the river as part of Loy Krathong. I've also managed to pick up a bit of Thai since I've been here – lots of people like to do language exchanges and the children are always willing to help too.

Yaowawit School is actually quite an international place. In my time here I've met people from all over the world – Germans,

Swiss, Japanese, Malaysians, Kenyans, Chinese and more. On top of the volunteer programme, Yaowawit has an international exchange program for schools wanting to experience Thailand and help a good cause. These schools help Yaowawit in many ways, including volunteering their time to help with projects, interacting with the children in English, sharing their culture and donating. I've also been able to go along with them on tours of Phang Nga bay, kayaking, to visit temples and to cultural learning centres where I could learn to carve fruits and make my own Thai deserts (yum).

While I could talk about all the opportunities I have here and the good feeling you get from doing something worthwhile all day, that's not what really makes it my home. It's the people. My friends, my colleagues, the volunteers, the children, the woman I buy tea from at the market every Sunday – all of them. People in general are so generous here, so quick to smile or to offer you a hand. So welcoming and supportive. Yaowawit is a home for these children, a family, but it's become a part of me too. ●

If you would like to help the children at Yaowawit, you can find more information at www.yaowawit.org or email info@yaowawit.org. There are lots of ways to get involved: becoming a volunteer, doing an internship here, visiting us, fundraising, sponsoring a child, encouraging your school or university to become a partner or spreading the word.

 @Yaowawit
 @Yaowawit

JOURNEY TO THE CANYON

MADISON WRITES ABOUT HER CLASS TRIP TO THE GRAND CANYON

On Sunday May 22nd, our class, accompanied by three teachers, traveled 2,151 miles from New York City to Arizona to experience one of the natural wonders of the Earth: the Grand Canyon. For the following five days, we surveyed the 277 mile long canyon that borders Arizona, Nevada and Utah carved from the Colorado River, and the process of chemical, biological and physical weathering that distinguishes it by creating the colorful layers of rock that date back to 1.75 billion years ago.

Growing up in Asia gave me the chance to travel and to experience different cultures as well as beautiful geographic formations. But the jungles of Singapore and the beaches of Thailand are, I think, incomparable to the colorful culture of the Navajo tribe and the speechless beauty of the Grand Canyon.

Arriving in Phoenix, we met our friendly tour guide Jeremy and travelled by bus to the small town of Flagstaff where we



sampled the 'best' pizza in Arizona and spent the afternoon exploring a variety of small shops that sold everything from candles and fudge to hilarious graphic t-shirts. The day ended with a breathtaking hike on Cathedral Rock; the steep climb from the base to the summit not only offered us a geographical



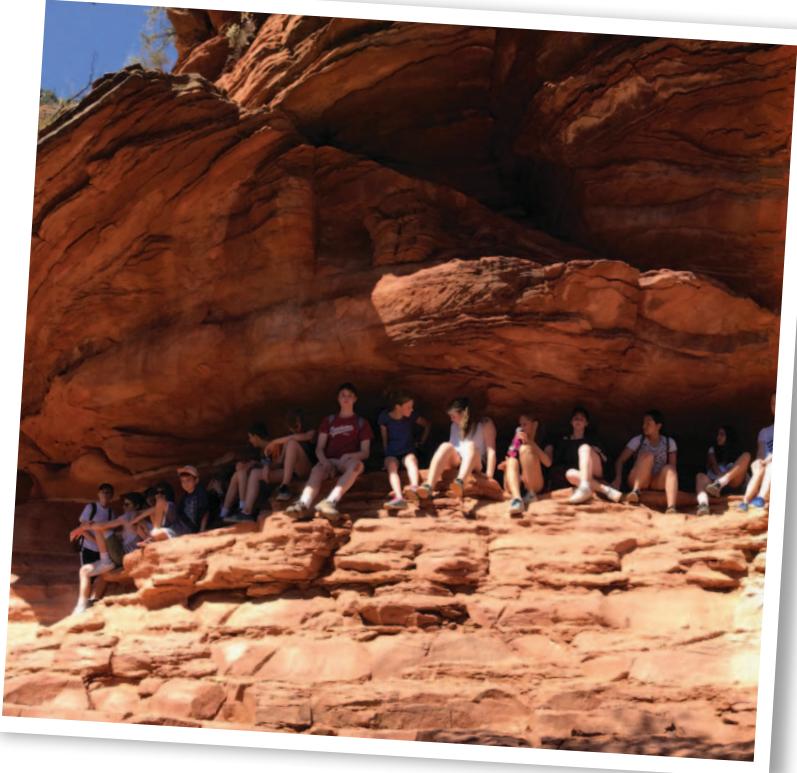
understanding of the landscape (by feeling the sedimentary and metamorphic rock formations) but also an everlasting view of scenery stretching off endlessly into the horizon. At the end of the climb, we were rewarded with a picturesque sunset and a much needed rest!

Our visit to the Southern Rim was spectacular as we learned about the history behind the wild variety of European and Navajo architecture, the train station as well as the many factors that attract the five million tourists to the Grand Canyon each year. After we learned about some of the different bacterial fossils preserved beneath the igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary layers of the Grand Canyon, the class were given the chance to explore the different trails, such as the Bright Angel Shoal Trail, that descends one mile deep to the bottom of the Canyon as well as exploring the Verkamp gift store and the Hopi House, a gallery of Navajo pottery, art and rugs. To finish the day we looked out on the stunning silent view of the Grand Canyon waiting for the sounds of the flying condors and the shift of rock as hikers travel to every crook and cranny of the Southern Rim.

From the canyon floor to the top of the Southern and Northern Rims, the Grand Canyon is home to over 500 species of reptiles, mammals and birds and over 1700 species of plants consisting of yarrow and watercress wildflowers to coyote willow trees. The plants' and animals' shape, size, colour and many other factors are influenced by geology of the area, climate and much more. The vegetation around the Colorado river and the trails of the Grand Canyon add to and blossom the brilliance of this ravine.

On our fourth day, we got the chance to visit the largest Navajo reservation in the United States and to take part in the Navajo Nation culture through eating traditional foods such as the Navajo Fry Bread with its crusty yet soft consistency, viewing an exhibition about the Four Worlds - the First World 'Nihill' (Black World), the Second World 'Ni'hodootl'izh' (Blue World), the Third World 'Nihaltsoh' (Yellow World) and the Fourth World 'Nilgai' (Glittering or White World). We ended the day helping at the St. Jude Food Bank with gardening and packaging food to send around the reservation.

Next, we climbed our last hike as we reached Horseshoe Bend, a beautiful rock formation where the Colorado River bends, cutting through the rock to form a horseshoe, hence the name Horseshoe Bend. It was a stunning view of the river, colored from the different shades of green from the plants and the



mix of the crystal blue water, which heightened and defined the rock formation. At about noon we were able to experience Horseshoe Bend from a different perspective as we climbed aboard a boat tour on the Colorado River and learnt about the process of freeze-thawing and the Navajo petroglyphs.

On the last morning, we packed our suitcases, ready to depart Arizona. However, I was lucky enough to stay behind as my parents arrived from New York to pick me up and we headed to Boynton Canyon for a few extra days! For the afternoon we rode in a Pink Jeep Tour for a wild ride to the ancient ruins, where we saw artefacts as well as ruins of Hopi buildings and different plants, then made a bumpy return at sunset.

The next day we put on our sunscreen and bugspray to equip ourselves for the four hour drive to the Desert View Watchtower on the edge of the Southern Rim. This Navajo inspired tower is decorated with Navajo petroglyphs, and has an inspiring and breath-taking view of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River.

My week in Arizona was unmatchable and unforgettable. I learned historical and scientific facts about the Grand Canyon and of all the places I have lived, it is this place that I think really demonstrates the sheer beauty of the natural world. ●

Madison Pridham-Cartier is a student at **The British International School of New York, USA**.

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LOVELY EGYPT

SAEED TELLS US OF HIS JOURNEY TO EGYPT AND
THE WONDERFUL SIGHTS HE SAW THERE

The first time I opened my eyes was in lovely Egypt in 2005. I soon fell deeply in love with it, although I wouldn't understand that until much later. In 2007 my family moved away to Kuwait for work, and we have happily adapted to life here.

Although I grew up in Kuwait, go to school here and have many friends, I can't wait for the moment that my family decides to return to my home country for good. Let me explain why, let me take you on a tour of Egypt!

We begin our journey in the city of Luxor, a city of almost half a million people beside the Valley of Kings and the Valley of Queens. When the winter brings cold weather to other places in the world, beautiful Luxor stays warm and sunny.

It is a magical place with great opportunities to learn about ancient Egypt, or just admire the amazing Nile (the world's largest river). My personal favourite Luxor activity is riding El Hantour in Luxor's old streets. El Hantour are decorated open carts drawn by a horse. Luxor has amazing museums containing many artefacts from ancient Egypt. When I visited, I went to Deir El-bahari Temple and learned about Hatshepsut, a great ancient Egyptian queen who ruled the country for 20 years! Did you know that the ancient Egyptians had more than one thousand gods? This I learnt in the Al Karnak temple. Even though tourists may only see the locals in the city, many farmers work close by, on the River Nile, growing food for the city.

Next, get ready for an amazing time as we head to Cairo, the capital of Egypt! The famous city is the largest in Egypt. It is full of people, crowded, and noisy, but this is the very reason some people fall in love with the city. Cairo has many modern features including the largest Islamic university in the world, Alazhar University. Students come from all around the world to attend it!

Next, off we go to the nearby pyramids at Giza and the Sphinx. These are among the wonders of the ancient world. Nobody is quite sure how they were built. Phew, all of this travelling is making me hungry! Let's go take our lunch in one of the beautiful shops along the Nile. Here we go, back to the oldest streets in Cairo. On Hay Alhusayn Street you can almost smell the history. You are invited to come in for a delicious Egyptian desert of rice pudding with nuts in one of the cafes of Hay Alhusayn Street. Afterwards, let's go to Hay Khan Alkhalili for some souvenirs. Well, that was nice. I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I did!





Photography: Dennis Jarvis

Recently, I had a pleasant surprise back in Kuwait. After many months of hard work and studying, my parents decided to go on a trip to a relaxing and beautiful city. They selected Sharm El-sheikh in Egypt.

I believe that Sharm El Sheikh is the prettiest city on the Red Sea. It is famous for its beautiful coast, but what is really stunning is what lies under the water!

I went diving and was surprised by the many strange aquatic creatures that I hadn't seen before, like green turtles, lion fish, crocodile fish, eels, anemones, table coral, clown fish, blue spotted stingrays, small octopuses, and polyclads. Let's go swimming alongside the fish, who are used to swimming with the humans and don't swim away! Sharm El-sheikh was a great place to have fun, relax and recharge. Once our vacation at this beautiful town was over, we were ready to go back to work at home!

Our tour ends in Alexandria, the 'bride of the Mediterranean Sea.' Alexandria was created by Alexander the Great, and was the capital of Egypt for nearly 1000 years. When it was the capital, it contained the Alexandria beacon, which was

considered another of the wonders of the ancient world because it stood over 120 metres high. Unfortunately, it sank after an earthquake 700 years ago. Now in its place you can find the beautiful Bey Citadel.

In the era of the Greeks, the ancient library of Alexandria was built. It was gigantic and soon filled with more than 700,000 rare books, but it burned down many times! It was renovated in 2002 to be the new library of Alexandria, with a unique design based on the sun. It now allows sunlight to enter everywhere, over its 8 million books.

As you can see, Egypt has a lot to offer, and I haven't even spoken of half of what there is! From culturally important and beautiful aspects at Luxor and Giza, to shopping in Cairo, to diving and sunbathing in Sharm El-sheikh, and finally to book browsing in Alexandria, there is definitely something for everyone. I hope that after reading this, you can understand why I dream of returning to my home, to my country, to my lovely Egypt. ●

Saeed Wael is a student at The English Primary School in Salmiya, Kuwait.

MY CRUISE VACATION

AISHA TELLS US ABOUT HER DISNEY CRUISE

Every year for the past five years, my family has visited the United States during the summer. We go there because my father studied there and he likes to visit the States every year to see his old friends. We go to many different places from the east coast all the way to the west coast. Also, my two aunts are now studying there as well, so we get to see them too.

This year, my father decided to do something different. He decided to book a cruise from America. The idea was exciting for me as I have never been on one before. He wasn't sure which cruise we should take and from which port we should book but I didn't care! Just the idea of being on a ship sailing on the sea was very appealing and exciting to me. I had only seen ships in movies, and had never been on one before! Finally, after a thorough search, my father decided to go with the Disney Cruise.

Of course the name Disney alone is enough to put a smile on my face and my brothers' and younger sister's! We love Disney and have been to Disney theme parks many times! We know the joy it holds from the characters of Mickey Mouse and his friends to all the games and rides! So I prepared for this trip early and packed a Disney t-shirt to wear on the cruise. We flew in from Kuwait all the way to Washington, D.C. We stayed with my aunts for a few days in nearby Baltimore, where they studied, and then we flew to Florida where the Disney cruise would set sail from.

We took a taxi cab to the port where the cruise was waiting for us and waited for the cruise bus to take us to the ship. The porters checked in our luggage, took our passports, and officially checked us in. Last but not least they gave us watches to wear for a mysterious reason. I found out later that it was for them to track us in the ship and also was a key to get into the youth club on board. All of this was extremely exciting and we hadn't even gotten on to the boat yet! Soon enough though, we began boarding. One of the hostesses was dressed in beautiful clothing and was holding a microphone. She asked my father, "What's your family name?" He replied, "AlAammart", so she shouted to the microphone, "The AlAammart family has just arrived to the cruise, welcome!" and she bowed deeply. It was like we were VIPs! They announced that no one could go to their rooms yet, so we decided to discover the ship. It had 13 floors and it was absolutely huge. You can't imagine how gigantic this boat was! The 12th floor had the pools, including two main pools and five smaller ones. Some floors

had cinemas, of course playing only Disney movies. Every day there was a show in the Walt Disney Theatre. There were too many things to mention, but maybe my favourite was the ice cream machine! Everyday we would eat lunch, then swim and eat ice cream as our daily routine.

My day would start at around 9:00am when we would get up and go to the breakfast room. The breakfast was a huge buffet with plenty of food, everything one could imagine. I would fill my plate with eggs and waffles, and my mother would bring us cereal and milk from another table. After the breakfast, we would go to the pool or the youth club. In their pool area, they had the Donald Duck water slide, which was a huge amount of fun. The only downside was that the waiting time for us was about thirty to forty-five minutes! The youth club only allowed me, my brother, and my sister to get in but not my youngest brother as he was less than three years old. The club is spacious and has many rooms and activities. They have cooking, painting, computer and play sessions. We went there every day at different times as it was open from early morning till midnight. At 6:30pm, there was a show at the Disney theatre. It was different every day. The first day it was a story about Mickey Mouse. The second day we saw a movie called *Inside Out*. The theatre was huge with balconies on the right and left.

Come dinner time, we would go to a casual restaurant where we had a specified table for us every night with the same people serving us. The dinner menu had a different theme and cuisine every night! But no matter what the menu was, they always brought us what we like the most: pizza and chicken nuggets. For dessert we always chose ice cream or chocolate cake. They had a Mickey Mouse ice cream which was delicious. The last night they did a pirate themed day! When the room service came, they left us pirate bandanas in our rooms. They had fireworks that night and they did a pirate show; it was the best night. That night our menu was shaped like a pirate hat! It was a strange souvenir but I still have it in my room!

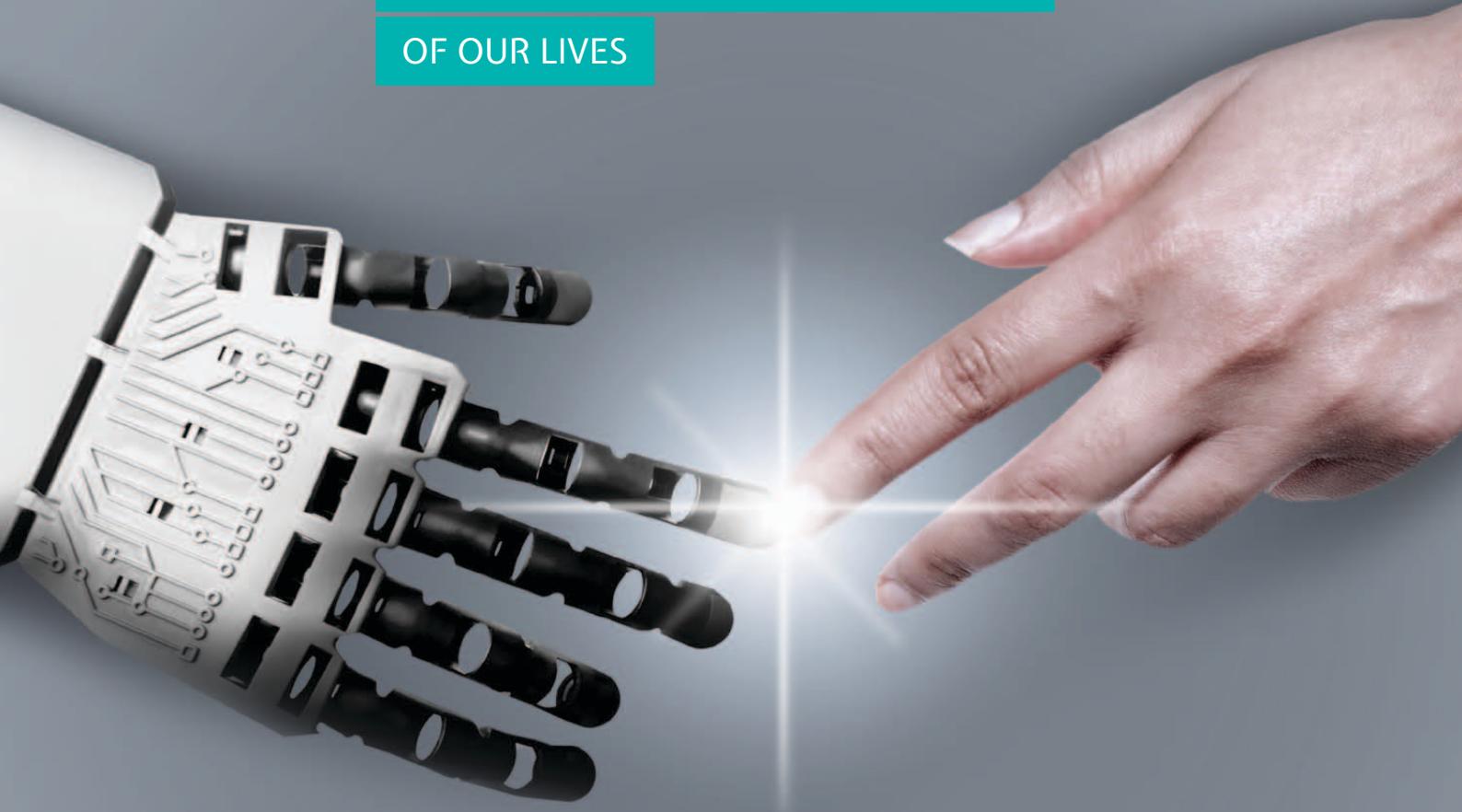
It was only five nights but we had so much fun. After we disembarked, we immediately asked my father to plan the next cruise for next year! ●

Aisha AlAammart is a student at The English Primary School in Salmiya, Kuwait.



ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

ALEXANDER TELL US ABOUT THE LATEST
ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY AND HOW
THESE WILL AFFECT VARIOUS ASPECTS
OF OUR LIVES



So, advances in technology? You won't believe what has changed in such a short time! From the very first hulking PC which required almost a whole room's worth of space, to iPod's and sleek tablets about the size of your pocket. The digital era just stormed in, and it's now becoming like a part of us.

I'm pretty sure only the older kids remember this, but there was this console called the SEGA Genesis. It was pretty much the reason why Xbox live and online purchases exist. They had an online store similar to the Xbox live screen, where you engage in online multiplayer games and buy games online. You might also not know this, but SEGA was also the one who created CD cases. This allowed quick convenient storage for those CD junkies. Have you heard of the Oculus Rift? It's a new device created for gaming and educational purposes to give you a fully immersive experience, almost like you're in the system! Not satisfied? There's a new project being developed right now. It involves a pentagonal prism hooked up to wires, and whenever you move in the simulation it'll move in real life.

But enough about gaming; let's move on to more sophisticated advances. For example, machines have been getting lighter, faster, and more powerful as we know it! A man named Ryan Kunde invented an efficient, low-cost farming drone in 2014. The idea he came up with was to invent efficient, cheap and reliable mini-crop dusters. "Seeing a crop from the air can reveal patterns that expose everything from irrigation problems to soil variation and even pest and fungal infestations that aren't apparent at eye level", says Chris Anderson, former editor-in-chief of *Wired*. This could be a huge jump for farming, as it helps them spot signs of infectivity within crops, or help to maximize the farming potential.

Not into agriculture? Well, on a totally different page, Boston Dynamics are working on a new robot called Atlas. Atlas is

a robot designed to be able to walk across rough terrain like a normal human. "The robot could perform repair work in environments too dangerous for emergency workers to enter, such as the control room of a nuclear power plant on the brink of a meltdown" says Will Knight, senior editor for AI at MIT Technology Review. They said it could end up becoming a robotic hero to go into dangerous areas, or simply the robot that does your chores. Regardless, this could be the next robot to go into outer space to check if the human body can live on a planet or not.

Wait, you want something less trivial? I've got something! Remember Google? Probably. Forgetting Google in the modern day world is like forgetting to eat. Anyways, they've launched a project called 'Project Loon'. It involves sending helium balloons around poor countries to provide Internet service to schools and homes. Now, you must be thinking, 'Helium balloons with Internet? How the blazes will they ever get that to happen?' and at first, I was pretty uncertain as well. Surprisingly enough, they thought it out very carefully. It flies 20km above the stratosphere, and can navigate through winds through remote directions. When the helium is depleted (which usually takes 100 days), the polyethylene plastic envelope (which the balloon is stored in) will slowly release gas to the ground for any repairs and to refill the helium. They even went so far as to build in an automatic parachute in case the balloon falls too quickly to the ground! The balloon is self-powered, using a simple solar panel and a few rechargeable lithium batteries to keep it working at night. Through the power of LTE, helium and no bad arrows, Internet will come for everyone. ●

Alexander Lim is a student at the Garden International School in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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A PINT OF BEER

ABDUL TELLS US ABOUT HIS
STRUGGLES OF CONFLICT
BETWEEN HIS IDENTITY AND
MODERN WESTERN LIFE

"Are you sure you don't want a pint, Abdul?" my friend asked with a strong Russian accent.

He knew my answer.

"Come on," he pleaded. "one won't make a difference."

No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't let go of what molded me into the person I am today.

Imagine turning on the TV to see politicians and their worshippers rallying to deny you some of the most basic human rights. From the moment I landed in England two years ago, I had been trying to detach myself from my Egyptian-Islamic culture. I didn't want to be an outcast. I didn't want to be a 'threat to national security', a camel-riding nomad, or a belly dancer. I didn't want to be Egyptian.

I still remember shaking hands with my newly made friend while smiling and pretending to know where Montenegro is, a country I didn't even know existed. At my new boarding school in England, I had breakfast with a Brazilian, lunch with a Lithuanian and dinner with a Dane. For the first time in my life, I saw someone eating a burger with a knife and fork.

After living with students from over 55 countries, I began to understand the importance of embracing my culture while accepting those of others. I won't forget eating my first bowl of

pho, dancing my first Labajalavalss, or speaking my first word of Russian, привет.

Benjamin once came up to me and asked, "How do you go to school in Egypt?" Contrary to what many ten-year-olds believe, I was raised in a place with very few camels. Although my talks at Tenbury Primary School were disappointing for children like Benjamin, they helped me clear up the dense smoke of misconceptions about my country.

What Egypt lacks in camels it makes up for in a blend of history and religion. Living in Egypt means waking up before dawn to the calls to prayer echoing between the cobblestone alleys of downtown Cairo. There are more statues of King Tut on the streets of Cairo than there are gargoyles on the cathedrals of Paris. The vigilant, dark eyes of a golden-faced Pharaoh are always watching my every move. I am constantly being reminded to live up to my pyramid-building ancestors' reputation while following the teachings of Islam.

In England, 18-year-olds can legally drink, but for 16-year-olds social life can still be centered around alcohol. I have been called mad more times than I can remember, and people usually doubt that I have never tasted the bitterness of tequila or the sweetness of rum. Even my mother takes my claims with a pinch of salt. After all, I am not a devout Muslim, my name changed from Abdelrhman to Abdul, and I stopped eating her sizzled pigeons. I was close to letting go of my identity, but my culture ingrained in me something like a tattoo never to come off. I am glad my background shaped me in this way because a pint of beer costs three pounds and fifty pence. That's the price of a Double Quarter Pounder at McDonald's. And I like McDonald's. I do not know how I will go through college without drinking, but this is the next challenge I will have to face.

Every Friday night, when I'm sitting under the low ceiling of a dimly lit pub that smells of home-cooked shepherd's pie and ale, I can't help but wonder: what's wrong with orange juice anyway? ●

Written by Abdelrhman Saleh, a student at King's College Saint Michael's in Tenbury Wells, UK.

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WHY IS READING SO IMPORTANT?

KAROLINA TALKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF READING AND WAYS TO GET YOU INTO THE HABIT

About a year ago, the entire idea of having to sit down and spend even 30 minutes reading a book bore me to death. I would only read a book if I had to for school and eventually I wouldn't even read the book, I would just look up a summary and analysis on the internet. Overall, I believed that reading was boring, time-consuming and not worth the effort invested when you could just go see the film adaptation, if there was one. That changed last summer, where amidst the scorching heat I decided to sit down and read *The Picture of Dorian Grey*. I read the book every night until I finished and immediately after I picked up another book. While I did thoroughly enjoy the book, at that time what book I read didn't matter because after that I started to read consistently every night. Suddenly, I had gone from someone who barely read anything to someone who reads a new book every week or two.

There are many benefits which are associated with engaging in deep reading. Deep reading is considered to be thoughtful and deliberate reading, where a person is fully immersed in a book, compared to just skimming or superficial reading. When a person is fully immersed in a book, they are getting the full experience and enhancing their own comprehension and enjoyment of the text. Deep reading has also been connected with expanding a person's vocabulary and in turn increasing their academic or work performance and achievements. However, all these benefits don't come from just scrolling through the internet or reading using electronic devices. Britain's National Literacy Trust released a study of 34,910 young people aged 8 to 16 and found that 39% of children read daily using electronic devices but only 28% read printed material every day. The study also found that young people who read daily only onscreen were nearly two times less likely to be above-average readers than those who read daily in print or both in print and onscreen. This shows how reading a printed book or at least a book on a kindle is far more beneficial than reading some random articles and posts on the internet. Furthermore, the ability to read and write fluently is a vital part of many jobs, ranging from jobs that are directly connected to writing such as journalism to other jobs like business or law. For

example, writing reports or just e-mails are a part of nearly every job and in order for them to communicate their point efficiently, good writing skills and a broad vocabulary are needed.

All these benefits may sound appealing, however you are probably asking yourself "Why does it matter?" since you don't read anyway or you just don't know how to start. The first part is to choose a good book which you know you will enjoy, probably try to avoid extremely complex or long books and opt for something shorter and simpler. If you have really not read many books, then you could try and think about the films and TV shows you enjoy and try to find books which are in the same genre or have other similar characteristics. When you have chosen your book and you are determined to finish it, the key point is to create a habit of reading and to be consistent with it. For example, reading for 30 minutes every day is a lot better than for 90 minutes once a week if you are trying to form a habit. Overall, reading literature has proven to have a multitude of varying benefits if enough time is dedicated towards it. ●

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MAKE A WISH

QINGYIN TELLS US ABOUT HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED FOR
WOMEN AND WHAT STILL NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED

My grandma once told me, when she was about my age, her dream of being a doctor was mocked. "How could a female possibly become a doctor, you mean nurse right?"

That's why she gave up on her dream and became a teacher instead.

My aunt once told me, when she was still young, her brothers always received the bigger candies from their neighbors. Her memory of candy was the sweet taste, but the bitterness of a boy emanating with pride because he was rewarded merely for his gender.

When I was ten, my father told me that I can be whoever I wanted to be, as long as I tried my best. Here I am today, sleeplessly awaiting my 16th birthday. Over a hundred years ago, to be 16 years old in China meant that you needed to find yourself a family and have your own business. However, my future is still open. Can I be a psychologist? Or, should I strive for another career that could earn me more money and respect? The feminist in me ponders these questions and simultaneously pushes me to be ambitious.

Feminists typically advocate or support the rights and equality of women. However, nowadays, people sometimes deem it as a derogatory term: she is a man-hating amazon, or a leader of a female dictatorship. We are not trying to take over the world; simply, we are trying to achieve equality, which is not yet in our grasp. As the famed writer of 'The Yellow Wallpaper', Charlotte Perkins Gilman, once said, "There is no female mind. The brain

is not an organ of sex, might as well speak of a female liver." If what we say has to wear a 'gender hat' there is no need for us to talk about equality anymore. Equality means balance; if one side always wears an extra hat that is put by the other side, the balance would always lean to one side because of the hat.

I am afraid because I am about to take full responsibility for my life. Also, I am closer to becoming a woman. I am scared of the fact that one day I might not become the woman I've aspired to be. I remember people telling me that women just couldn't become great psychologists because women are always too emotional, but being emotional is necessary for a wife or a mom, so our gender could thrive in these roles. While one can take pride in being a good wife and a careful mom that is absolutely not what or who, I want to be. A Chinese proverb contends that innocence is the virtue of women and that not having a lot of knowledge, but being a housewife was the right of an ancient Chinese woman. However, in today's China, women have a more challenging role to fill. They are not expected to be smarter than their husband, but they must not be too ignorant, otherwise they will bring shame on their family. Women surely earn more respect now than in ancient China, but it's also harder for us to achieve equality.

The process of women getting equal rights is a perpetual battle. At the beginning of the 20th century, women in Britain, for the first time put down their pots and pans, went to the streets and fought for their right to vote. Men believed that the reason for women doing a such thing was because they were spinsters; this could be the only reason to be a suffragette.



"Nobody loves me – guess I'll be a suffragette," the imagined hopeless woman states.

"Suffragettes are those who have never been kissed," men say to assuage each other.

However, more importantly, men were afraid of being like 'women' – to have a right in the democratic process meant that they had a voice, a say in how our society was run. This voice was predominantly male. However, the 'domestic' woman, the mother and wife, also joined the cause.

"Everybody works but Mother, but she's a suffragette."

"My wife joined the suffrage movement. I've suffered ever since!"

They believed that all women should stay where they 'belong', 'in their place.' A woman's place is in her home.'

Perhaps you would say, "Well that was about 100 years ago! Women are treated well today!" Absolutely this is the past, but to say that we have reached an equal status is erroneous. By asserting that women are treated well is to undermine women's rights because we will not settle for just well. Today, women are facing even harder challenges. For them, life now has more opportunities and yet the social rules are stricter. We are surrounded by so-called 'standards' that we are expected to abide by everywhere we go:

"OH MAN, this one is too HEAVY."

"Um-em too skinny."

"Too cute. Her smile looks so fake."

"Oh, she is too pretty, not really wife-material."

"Too ugly, not really wife-material."

"Why would you want to be a star if you are so fat, go back home!"

"Why are you wearing such a skimpy dress? You are too loose." These are only words, simple letters put together to form a demeaning message, and for this reason they are more sharp than swords and knives. However, they are only lethal if we allow them to be; like most wounds, the cut they form will eventually heal with medicine and time.

My grandma has become a biology teacher and is married to a doctor; she has three children that will always love and respect her. My aunt never worries about the candies and she knows that no matter what happens, her two brothers will always stand up for her. I never worry about receiving a smaller candy or not being a doctor; instead, I am taught to always chase my dreams. I can, and should, always try to learn more in order to make myself a better.

I still don't know if 'being afraid of becoming just a housewife' is the reason for me to fight for women's rights. It might be unreasonable, but deep in my heart, I believe that nobody is fighting for only themselves.

The clock is ticking... 12 o'clock, wish me a happy birthday.

Qingyin (Stella) Guan from China is an IB Diploma student at EF Academy New York, USA. This year, she is the Editor-in-Chief of the school's literary magazine.

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TEACH THE UNREACHED

THE IMPACT AND IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND THE EFFECTS IT CAN HAVE

As students in the UK we know how lucky we are to have been able to access an education. Without our education, we would not be passionate and engaged in current affairs, we would not have the confidence to express our own opinions, we would not understand the importance of pursuing a goal, nor receive the satisfaction of achieving it, and we certainly would not have the same opportunities that we do. We are therefore committed to sharing this privilege with anyone that we can. We know that an education expands horizons, and inspires people to educate others. As students at an all-girls school, our education has played an invaluable role in encouraging us to adopt a feminist perspective, and we strongly believe in the importance of equal educational opportunities for young girls and women worldwide.

Whilst learning about global development and population in human geography, we have seen education's impact on social demographics and helping people out of poverty. With an education, young people develop the skills to move into fulfilling jobs that progress towards more tertiary employment and long-term careers, which in turn enable them to give the same advantages to their children. Furthermore, communities with educational opportunities tend to have lower birth rates, due to an understanding of birth control and family planning. This reduces unsustainable population growth, which in turn reduces the pressure on developing countries.

As some of the oldest members of our school charities committee, we started the school year by finding out what cause South Hampstead School wanted to support. The consensus from all year-groups was that education had played such a key role in our own lives, that we wanted to give this chance to others. After researching charities that shared this belief, United World

Schools was the most engaging and appealing to our charities committee, and a unanimous vote concluded that we would support them in their mission to build schools across Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal. To spread this enthusiasm throughout the rest of our school, all 12 members of the committee gave an assembly, outlining the £20,000 needed to build a new UWS School, and our initial ideas about how to reach this goal.

We began discussing fundraising techniques, and realised that with a busy school calendar and many monthly causes worthy of our attention (such as International Women's Day and World Aids Day), we would have to plan events and raise lots of awareness about them in advance.

Looking forward, we have decided that the best way to motivate people is by giving them deadlines, so we calculated that if every person in our school raised £1 a day for just one month, we would raise over £20,000. This idea is still in the planning stages, but for now we are working towards a fundraising month in the new academic year to focus on raising this money. This, along with a series of big events engaging parents and the public, seems like a highly achievable goal which will allow us to 'teach the unreached' and provide education for a community that has never seen the inside of a classroom. ●

Olivia Aslett and Molly Windust both attend South Hampstead High School in London, UK.

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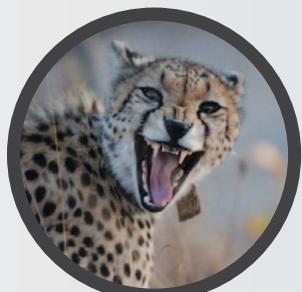
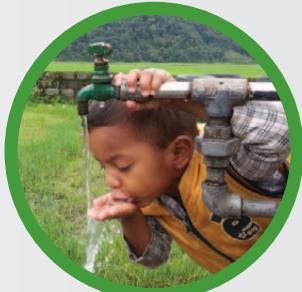
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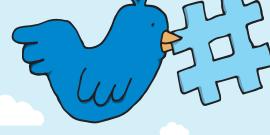
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FILM IS NOT DEAD

AMANDA TALKS ABOUT THE
MAGIC OF PHOTOGRAPHY
USING TRADITIONAL
ANALOGUE FILM

What is analogue photography? Well, film may have been considered extinct by most people for decades (or for most of you reading, your life). However, for the analogue faithful, the art of exposure has taken an unexpected renaissance, gaining a gratifying new number of followers after a lull in the early 2000s. It mirrors that of what happened with vinyl records – whether it's down to nostalgia, tactility, or simple aesthetics, film has an indisputable allure for a certain set of photography fanatics.

It is an undeniable fact that technology is continuously advancing day by day, especially in the world of photography. New camera tech rumours, updates and launches are simply perpetual - Canon is planning on releasing five new DSLRs this summer alone. Modern technology may have almost killed film for good, but now it seems that the resurrection has begun. Since 2008 and Kodak's Chapter 11 bankruptcy, The Impossible Project has been cranking out color and monochrome cartridges for Polaroid cameras. Impossible has been embraced by lo-fi loving people of all ages. Its success has paved the way for another independent company to capitalize on the public's reignited appetite for film. With the recent reboot of Lomographic cameras (ie. Holga, Diana, and others), many people in the younger generations have been learning this revitalised medium.

For most who have had to start with the basics of film photography, utilising Fujifilm disposable cameras (hipster alert!), you will be well acquainted with the fact that film is definitely not cheap and neither is developing it. This has led many film photographers to switch to digital photography when it became the norm. It is instantaneous, you can check and delete your shots as you wish, and you can retake photos



with the hauntingly assuring fact that it'll look 'perfect' (a process that many of you reading, probably go through when trying to take an Instagram-worthy selfie). But money matters aside, there is a certain aesthetic about film photography that simply cannot be replicated with digital ones: the grain, the oversaturated colors, the time-less quality.

I must say from experience that shooting with film is a much more magical and memorable experience than the conventional instant digital photography. It's all in the emotions; the fear of the unknown, the excitement of trying to go through a roll, the disappointment of not getting your 'perfect' shot and the complete elation when it turns out better than you imagined. The magic comes with the anticipation. With digital photography, everything is instant, but with film, you wait for the results. Liana Joyce, General Manager of Lomography UK, says it best: "Using film makes people think about what they are photographing. You only get one go, you can't take 50 pictures and delete them all."

Not all the images you take will be of a suitable standard. Countless factors can cause a photo to bomb (maybe by one of your annoyingly cheeky friends), but there is always hope.

All it takes is that one image on the roll that turns out better than how you saw it with your own eyes to make everything worthwhile.

Amanda Rozhan is a student at the Garden International School in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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PUPILS COME TOGETHER ON UNICEF'S DAY FOR CHANGE

SEE HOW YOU COULD BE A PART
OF GIVING CHILDREN FACING
VIOLENCE, HUNGER AND
DISASTER THE CHANCE OF
AN EDUCATION

In May, pupils at hundreds of schools across the UK and at international schools around the world, came together for Unicef UK's Day for Change to help raise money for the children of Syria.

Day for Change is Unicef UK's annual fundraising event, raising money for their vital work to keep children safe. In 2016, pupils learnt about the Syrian conflict in class, how it affects children's lives and what they can do to make a difference. Together schools raised £400,000 to help the children affected by this crisis.

International schools from Spain to Hong Kong took part in Day for Change 2016. The International School of Catalunya raised an incredible £4,400, which could provide four temporary schools where Syrian children can continue their education.

11-year-old Sara took part in Day for Change at her school in Birmingham, UK. She said: "The money we raised will help children in Syria get a better education. Education is important because it is the foundation of all our futures. Education leads to everything, it leads to a better job and a better family life."

This school year you have the chance to join schools in the UK and around the world in Day for Change 2017 on the 24th of May.



The challenge is to collect as much loose change as possible to help fund Unicef's life-saving work for children that are facing violence, hunger, disease or the chaos of war and disaster. The money you raise could provide clean water and shelter, help a child affected by disaster continue their education or give them a safe place to play. ●

Does your school want to help protect these children from danger? To join COBIS schools in taking part in Day for Change 2017, visit unicef.uk/dayforchange

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This report was researched and prepared by Global Business Reports (gbreports.com) for World Student Magazine. Editorial researched and written by Harriet Bailey and Ty Jeevaratnam. For more details, please contact info@gbreports.com.

ON THE ROAD IN ONTARIO

I didn't choose to study overseas for my undergraduate degree. I had just spent two years travelling around Europe and Australia after leaving school, and decided I should return home to the UK to continue my education. However, when I heard about the Erasmus programme, I jumped at the chance and was fortunate enough to be able to spend the third year of my degree in Berlin. After university the travel bug stayed with me and I got a job as a writer with an international company, flying to different countries at a moment's notice as an on-the-ground reporter. With my own study abroad experience a fond memory, and being a complete newbie to Canada, I must have seemed like the perfect candidate to write for World Student magazine. I have been on assignment for the past two months with my colleague Ty Jeevaratnam, looking into the opportunities for post-secondary education in Ontario. A native French-Canadian from the neighbouring province of Québec, she has been able to introduce me to Tim Horton's and maple syrup, among other Canadian staples. Here are our findings...

First impressions

Home to Canada's largest city Toronto, its capital city Ottawa,

and even Justin Bieber's hometown of Stratford, Ontario has a lot to offer. One third of all international students coming to Canada choose to study in Ontario, which equates to almost 50,000 young people from all over the world. Toronto is the fourth-largest city in North America after Mexico City, New York and Los Angeles, and Ontarians are proud of the fact that more than 50% of the people living in Toronto were not born here, making it a truly multicultural place.

Scott O'Neill, Director of International at the University of Waterloo, explained this view in more detail: "One in five Canadian citizens was born elsewhere and we are a very welcoming country. Rather than the melting pot of cultures promoted by the United States, Canada views our diversity as a cultural mosaic; everybody can retain their cultural, historical and individual heritage rather than assimilate with their neighbour."

Feeling welcomed by the community is one of the most important things to consider when choosing where in the world to study. Ontario offers both local colleges with strong links to their communities, and world-renowned universities central to the identity of their areas.

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UNIVERSITIES

Toronto

Although many of the institutions we met with offer free airport pick-ups for their new international students, I was no longer eligible. However, it is easy to get into downtown Toronto via the Union-Pearson Express train service. Once there, you will find the University of Toronto (referred to as UofT); Ryerson University, named after the founder of Ontario's modern school system; and Ontario College of Art and Design University (known as OCAD U).

UofT is a collegiate university modelled on the same lines as Oxford University in the UK, with students attending one of seven colleges. Some colleges, such as Trinity, offer students the opportunity to wear gowns for specific functions and to say grace in Latin! As the largest university in the province, it has a total enrolment of almost 86,000 students, nearly 16,000 of whom are international. Despite its large size, the college structure provides a more intimate setting for learning and socialising.

Trinity College is the smallest of all UofT's colleges, with fewer than 2,000 students. Provost and Vice-Chancellor Mayo Moran told us the admissions requirements are extremely demanding, with more than 75% of students graduating with distinction or high distinction. Provost Moran was especially proud of the fact that, of Canada's 11 Rhodes Scholars for 2016 (a prestigious scholarship for post-graduate study at Oxford), two were Trinity graduates.

However, the university also recognises the importance of looking after its students, particularly those from abroad, and has introduced a new \$1.75 million mental health initiative – one of the first of its kind in the country: "We appreciate the fact that it can be challenging for international students to integrate in a new environment, as most of the applicants are young and may not have a support system or know many people in Canada," said Provost Moran. "Through our new initiative, we offer students enhanced on-site counselling and other supports by trained professionals. Because being separated from family and close friends can bring about additional challenges, many of our international students are involved in this initiative. We know the healthy development of the whole person is crucial if we are to enable our students to fulfill their enormous potential."

The University of St Michael's College (St Mike's) is around double the size of Trinity, but retains the small, friendly atmosphere with fewer than 4,000 students. It was originally founded in the 19th Century as an academic refuge for Catholics, in the traditionally Protestant province of Ontario, and retains this basis in faith today. Vice Chancellor David Mulroney, who aims to meet all his international students personally, said St Mike's offers students a unique opportunity: "We have had a large

number of students drawn to the combination of academia and religious education that we provide. The fact that we have this background attracts others who are seeking a slightly different pace of life, with the chance to be more contemplative and reflective through the course of their education."

The second largest university in the city is Ryerson, situated right next to Toronto's version of Times Square: the Yonge-Dundas Square. Despite the less-than-catchy name, it hosts good shopping, bright lights and even open-air movie nights in summer – perfect for balmy evenings! President Mohamed Lachemi was himself an international student, arriving in Canada for post-graduate study after completing an undergraduate degree in Algeria. "I came to Canada as an international student 30 years ago, but did not get the chance to interact with students from a variety of backgrounds; these types of interactions add to the success of our institution," he explained. "Bringing international students to our campus is a priority for us, as we believe enhancing multicultural student interactions adds value to the educational component of Ryerson University."

OCAD U is Canada's oldest and largest university dedicated to art and design, and the third largest art and design institution in North America. Although it already has a wide range of fully-equipped facilities for budding artists and designers, the university is in the midst of some pretty impressive expansion work. President Sara Diamond explained to us where the brand-new buildings would be located across the city from the panoramic windows of her 14th floor office in downtown Toronto: "We will upgrade our studio facilities and build an additional 55,000 square feet of architectural space, as well as a library three times its current size as part of our Creative Cities Campus. Within two years, we will open the Campus for the Connected World on the waterfront, including an expanded incubator, growing our space there from 14,000 square feet to 53,000 square feet. We have a gallery system and will open an 8,000 square foot gallery onsite that will show work by media artists and designers from around the world."

Heading west

The south-west tip of Ontario, bordered by two of North America's Great Lakes (Lake Huron to the north and Lake Erie to the south), holds several university towns. Driving 3.5 hours west out of Toronto on Highway 401 ultimately leads to the city of Windsor and the Detroit River, dividing Canada from the United States.

As well as a fantastic view of Detroit's skyline, Windsor also hosts its own university. Of its 16,000 students, 18% are international; the Windsor-Detroit region also hosts the largest Arabic-speaking population outside of the Middle East. Dr Alan Wildeman has been the university's President for eight years, and has seen international enrolment double in the past half-decade since Windsor started to promote the region's



Are you interested in studying in Ontario, Canada?

Deb Matthews

*Deputy Premier, Chair of Cabinet,
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development,
Minister Responsible for Digital Government*



Well as Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, I would like to encourage you to do just that. I'm happy to say that our province has much to offer international students. You might think I am biased, but Ontario's 44 publicly assisted colleges and universities have a global reputation for quality programs and a positive student experience. Our province is a destination of choice for international students at the postsecondary level.

I'm proud to say that Ontario has a wealth of higher education choices, from large universities supporting world-class research in the heart of urban centers, to small, undergraduate institutions in picturesque areas of the province. As well, colleges across the province offer career-focused programs blended with practical experience.

In fact, in 2015, more than 87,000 full-time international students chose to study at Ontario's publicly assisted colleges and universities? These students know what I know: Ontario has some of the best postsecondary institutions in the world. Ontario's colleges and universities meet rigorous international standards for curriculum, teacher qualifications, faculties and student services.

Ontario also shares research, knowledge and student exchanges with other educational institutions around the world. In fact, my government recognizes that international activities are core elements of a successful public postsecondary education system. International students – from kindergarten to postsecondary – add to the diversity of Ontario's communities and enhance intercultural learning in Ontario's classrooms, increasing the quality of the education experience for all students.

Our government understands that in the 21st century global economy it is critical for Ontario's postsecondary institutions to continue to attract top talent from around the world. That's why we've taken a number of significant steps to ensure it remains an education destination of choice. In partnership with the postsecondary, education and training sectors, my mandate is to help people choose their path; ensure an accessible, high-quality and sustainable postsecondary education system; and build an integrated employment and training system.

To find out more about studying in Ontario visit:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/go-college-or-university-ontario>

diversity on a global scale. "Windsor's location is attractive for students as there are fascinating things to see in our neighbouring U.S. city of Detroit. Many of our students are involved in co-op programs there and Windsor has a long history of connections with the other side of the border," he elaborated.

Around halfway between Windsor and Toronto is the city of London, which even has its own Thames River running through it. Although Western University – formerly known as the University of Western Ontario - has one of the most picturesque campuses in Canada, it is strongly focused on what goes on inside the classroom. "We are making conscientious decisions to increase our research profile and attract the best teaching talent worldwide. There seems to be constant tension in the sector about whether a university can have great researchers or great teachers; at Western we are fighting the idea that this is mutually exclusive, as we want to have the best researchers on the front line of teaching," explained Carolyn Ford, Director of International Undergraduate Recruitment.

Western is a similar size to Ryerson with around 38000 students, which is roughly 10% of the city's total population. It also boasts one of the largest program offerings in Ontario, with more than 400 undergraduate programs and 120 Masters and PhD programs in 11 faculties.

Halfway again between London and Toronto is the urban conurbation of Kitchener-Waterloo, which has not just one, but two universities: Wilfrid-Laurier and the University of Waterloo itself (marking the last two in the line-up starting with 'W'). The area is known as the Silicon Valley of the North as it is home to the most technology start-ups in North America after Menlo Park; BlackBerry is headquartered in the city as founder Mike Lazaridis, who came to Canada from Greece, studied electrical engineering at Waterloo and subsequently became the university's chancellor.

Universities and colleges across Canada are becoming increasingly reliant on international students not only to keep their classrooms filled, but also to become the new generation of skilled Canadian workers. Scott O'Neill studied psychology at Waterloo before coming back to work at the university twenty years later: "All universities in Canada are facing a demographic decline due to reduced birth rates; international students are key to maintaining and growing the size of our institutions in the absence of home-grown students. We can also benefit from holding on to the international students we have trained here and having them remain in the area, which is a hub for technology with a diverse international population." While Waterloo's campus can be found on one side of University Avenue, Wilfrid Laurier's is on the other. The university is named after the seventh Prime Minister of Canada, who was in office for 15 years in a row and is now on the Canadian \$5 bill. With more than 19,000 students it has a full range of programs and courses, but also works with its neighbour to provide even more opportunities for students. "Laurier has several options for students to pursue double degrees in the areas of mathematics, business and computer science. Some of those double degree programs involve a partnership with the University of Waterloo and all of these programs are extremely popular," explained Julie Hummel, associate registrar of recruitment and admissions. Driving back towards Toronto we reached the University of Guelph. Greeted by a huge gryphon statue at the entrance to the campus, we felt that we had finally found Hogwarts. Although a gryphon is a fictional animal, the university is known for its focus on the life sciences, and is ranked fourth in the world for veterinary medicine. Guelph currently has around 1,200 international students out of a total of 28,000; Associate Vice President (Academic) Serge Desmarais said having more international students

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on campus was a focus. "Being a highly ranked institution when it comes to fields such as agriculture and veterinary schools, we have been able to attract international students; however, we have not maintained the same level of interest in recent years, and so we are revisiting our strategy for international engagement. This is also a very clear priority for Guelph's President."

Just like Guelph, Brock University is only an hour out of Toronto. It is the only university in Canada to have a campus in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and is based on the edge of the Niagara Escarpment, with stunning views over the town of St. Catharines and the wider Niagara region. James Mandigo, the new Vice Provost of International, researches the impact of education in Central American communities and is keen to bring the idea of 'act locally, think globally' to the entire campus.

As well as focusing on the similarities, rather than the differences, between cultures, Brock's students have access to a range of up-to-date facilities. "We built the International Center in June 2010 and it now houses our recruitment and international student services centers, as well as our English programs and our Confucius Center. In terms of facilities on campus, we have spent \$120 million on the Cairns Family Health and Biosciences Research Complex, an innovative center around the life sciences, biosciences and natural sciences. It functions as an incubator for students to conduct research. We have also recently opened the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts in downtown St. Catharines, which has links to local artists and those working in the industry, as well as world-class learning facilities."

The Triangle

Having travelled west, we now needed to travel north and east of Toronto; east won out as we could reach the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) in an hour by taking our favourite route, Highway 401. Founded in 2002, UOIT

is one of Canada's newest universities. Although it has a significant focus on technology, business, engineering and the sciences, it also offers social sciences and humanities programs to its 10,000 students.

Susan McGovern, the vice president of external relations and advancement, liaises with local and national companies to find out exactly what they expect from graduates: "We have received industry feedback demanding students with a well-rounded education, and who are able to understand the public policy effect of building an airport, rather than simply the engineering aspects of the job. Students need to be equipped with the soft skills to enable them to excel in the workplace from the moment they begin, rather than several months down the line. UOIT is innovative in the sense that we develop joint courses between faculties; for example, we are currently partnering an infrastructure engineering program with the humanities and social sciences faculties. Keeping this in mind, our programs are designed to offer a holistic education, rather than being narrow in focus."

From UOIT's hometown of Oshawa, we headed east to the second point on the triangle: Ottawa, the border town between Ontario and Québec. Although Toronto is the capital of Ontario, Ottawa is the capital city of Canada and home to the country's government buildings and Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau. The University of Ottawa is the largest English-French bilingual university in the world, offering completely bilingual faculty and staff and the option to study all programs in either language. International students who choose to study in French will pay the same government-subsidised tuition as a domestic student, rather than international fees.

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, Gary Slater, has been a science professor at uOttawa for 20 years and explained to us the importance of international students to the university's

vibrant, multicultural landscape. "In the coming years, we want to focus on four types of diversity: the first is cultural diversity, whereby we want to increase our student population from across the world to contribute to truly cosmopolitan classrooms. The second is linguistic diversity, focusing in particular on French-speaking international students; at present, about 40% of students speak French on campus. We also want degree diversity in the form of more PhD and Masters students and, finally, we want diversity in disciplines; our business and engineering schools are essentially at capacity and we want to encourage more students to attend uOttawa and to study in the Humanities and Social Sciences."

The final point on the triangle is Laurentian University. Located in the mining town of Sudbury, it is five hours west of Ottawa and four hours north of Toronto. It is also the second English-French bilingual university in Ontario, but hosts only 8,000 students, compared to the more than 40,000 studying at uOttawa. Chris Mercer, Executive Director of Student Life and Enrolment Management, told us about the various new facilities at Laurentian, such as the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and how the university's location provides students with opportunities they would not have access to elsewhere. "Our post-graduate employment rate has been in the highest amongst all universities in Ontario five years in a row, with the most recent being 97%. To support this level of labour market integration, we are constantly thinking about how we can place our students into meaningful opportunities within the various communities. Experiential learning plays a huge role in our medical program, for example, and because of our more remote location, medical students are able to engage in services to which their counterparts in more cosmopolitan areas may not have access. This provides students hands-on, context-based learning in unique scenarios and explains our 100% resident placement

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COLLEGES

Traditionally, while universities were seen as academic, colleges offered vocational training. Universities attracted students from far and wide, while colleges served their local communities. At least in Canada, those lines seem to be blurring. Universities are offering more experiential learning opportunities and colleges are adding full, four-year degree programs to the usual mix of diplomas and certificates.

Sean Coote has been Director of International at Niagara College for eight years: "All our students are welcome to engage in the full range of programs at Niagara, but the provincial government has ruled that domestic Ontario students have priority for programs, followed by Canadian citizens; only after that will international students be accepted onto courses. This means we have international students participating in around 90% of our courses."

Niagara College is, like Brock University, based in the Niagara region of Ontario, which is famous for two things: waterfalls, and wine. Together, they attract more than 15 million tourists to the region each year, creating a high number of jobs in the hospitality industry. Sean confirmed the college's most popular programs are in tourism, food and hospitality, and viticulture.

Institutions have the ability to "level up" and become colleges; art and design university OCAD U, originally just OCAD, was designated a university in 2002. Sheridan College, in the harbour town of Oakville an hour west of Toronto, is another art and design college in the process of becoming a university. "We have named the process the "Sheridan Journey" – it's our primary focus. As it stands right now, we function as an exceptional undergraduate teaching university. By formally becoming a

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university, we will receive affirmation about what we know to be true already. It will not present a radical change for students, although there are some fundamental operational changes happening around governance and expanding the number of degrees we have to offer. Ultimately, we recognize that it is not mutually exclusive to offer a career-focused education, ongoing connections to industry and applied research, and function as a university," explained Acting Vice-President, Student Affairs & Enrolment Management, Andrew F. Ness.

Humber College, located in western Toronto, is the largest polytechnic institute in Canada, offering a distinct third option between university and college. Of its 29,000 full-time students and 23,000 part-time students, around 15% are international. It also offers degree programs, which Alister Mathieson, Vice President of Advancement and External Affairs, claims are among the fastest-growing qualifications sought by Humber students. "Humber is a designated institute of technology and advanced learning which means we are able to offer degree programs. We have 24 four-year degree programs out of 180 full-time programs in eight academic schools, as well as a host of apprenticeships, one-year certificates, two-year diplomas, three-year advanced diplomas and post-graduate certificates," he said.

While universities can choose to work together to offer their students even greater choice – as in the case of Wilfrid-Laurier and Waterloo - there is also the potential for colleges to work

together with universities. Durham College shares a site with UOIT in Oshawa (though Durham actually got there first, as it was founded in 1967), providing students with access to even more educational opportunities. Don Lovisa became President of the College in 2008, when only 25 international students were enrolled; Durham now has more than 20x that number. "The pathway between university and college is evolving. Over the past few years, the province of Ontario has invested approximately \$75 million through the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer to help facilitate partnerships between colleges and universities including Durham and UOIT. This has enabled Durham to provide conditional admission to Canadian or international students starting with us and wanting to complete their degree at UOIT. This allows us to provide the best of both worlds – the opportunity to receive an applied education at college as well as develop the academic framework required to succeed at university," said President Lovisa.

Durham College will launch its first degree program in autumn 2016, although he commented the focus at the moment is on students returning to college after graduating, as they figure out the skills they really need to improve to get their dream job. "In recent years, we have seen a change in the demographic of our students at Durham, which has led to changes in our program mix; we now have many more post-graduate programs, which also incorporate a semester of work placement," he continued.



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The Michener Institute of Education, located in downtown Toronto, is another college taking advantage of the opportunities through partnership. At the start of 2016, Michener joined the University Health Network (UHN), which is the first example of a school joining with a hospital system in Canada. UHN is a network of five hospitals, providing direct access to students who will be able to put medical theory into practice far earlier in their program. Dr. Brian Hodges, the Executive Vice President of Education at UHN, said this will ensure students benefit from an up-to-date curriculum and a connection between what they are learning and what they are doing: "We are incorporating the concept of learning as constant and continuous, and moving away from the idea that there is a clear divide between being a student and being an employee. The major shift that we are making through the integration of the Michener Institute for Education is to fully integrate schooling with practical clinical, lifelong learning."

Algonquin College, led by President Cheryl Jensen, is an English-speaking college in Ottawa offering one-, two- and three-year diplomas and certificates, and four-year degree programs. It attracts native French speakers as English learning can be integrated with a student's program, cutting down on the amount of time required to complete their studies. Like Michener, Algonquin also offers healthcare programs and supplies two-thirds of the healthcare staff required by the local workforce. "Whenever we develop a new program, we ensure that there is a demonstrated need for the program in the workplace. We have a program advisory committee (PAC) made up of experts in their various fields from the local area, and new programs require their approval. We have built into our strategic plan, effective in 2017, a much more purposeful intent for cooperative education, experiential learning and work-integrated learning," explained President Jensen.

All colleges are expected to have a PAC

involving industry leaders, and Seneca College is no exception. This ensures programs are as relevant to current practices as possible and guarantees the future marketability of students. "Our professors have a direct connection to the industry and are aware of current trends, which allows students to learn from real-life examples. In fact," explained Seneca Dean Jos Nolle, "we encourage our professors to get back in the industry every now and then, for example during sabbatical periods, so their knowledge remains relevant. We also invite guest speakers to present new developments, theories and trends to our students. This allows us to ensure that our students have access to the most accurate and relevant information." As well as encouraging its faculty members to gain experience abroad, higher education institutions provide opportunities for international as well as domestic students to take advantage of their partnership and exchange opportunities around the world. Centennial College, located close to Seneca in eastern Toronto, is the province's oldest college and celebrates its 50th anniversary this autumn. President Ann Buller told us about the impact of these experiences on her students: "I give a final assignment to every student who leaves Centennial College: to make a mark on the world and to make a difference. Toward that end, we offer opportunities to our domestic and international students to allow them to experience a different part of the world while learning and giving back to communities. Our global experience teams do research around these international assignments to understand the impact they have on individual students when they come back. The most important thing we hear is that their experiences have been life-changing, and they are more likely to volunteer again."

Mohawk College, based in Hamilton, has been voted number one in the Greater Toronto Area for four years in a row.

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Its international student population has doubled in the last three years and now hosts around 2,000 international students from 70 different countries. Mohawk has embraced the digital world and has recently launched its Go Mohawk app, guiding students through the college decision-making process and beyond. Keith Monrose is Dean of International and suggested Canada in general is becoming increasingly attractive to overseas students: "Canada has increased in its attractiveness to international students mainly due to economic, political, and international security reasons. This has also changed the dynamic of how Canada is perceived in the world, even in comparison to the United States. Politically, the climate in Canada has changed and education is being viewed as a priority and is being recognized as a tool for the democratization of the world."

Money, money, money

As well as measuring interest in an institution based on its location, programs and entry requirements, the availability of financial assistance can often be the ultimate decision maker. Not only do universities and colleges charge different tuition fees in the first place, they also offer a range of options to ensure that they can have the brightest and best students on their campus, regardless of socio-economic background. The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) is the group representing all 20 of the province's universities, and is led by President and CEO David Lindsay. He told us about the Ontario Trillium Scholarship for international post-graduate students and how the COU has reduced the cost of applying to university in the first place. "Ontario has implemented a centralised university application portal - the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) - where a student pays one fee per institution and creates a more efficient process for both university and student."

Although education in Canada is run by the provinces themselves, the federal government helps to promote Canadian opportunities abroad through the International Education Division (IED) of Global Affairs Canada. This also covers the availability of nationwide scholarships: "The IED tracks awards and scholarships from the Canadian government and those offered by foreign governments for Canadians to study abroad and international students to study in Canada," explained director Andreas Weichert. "The Emerging Leaders in the Americas program is the biggest of 12 different programs managed by the International Education Division, which supported more than 760 international students through financial assistance in 2015."

To get an idea of the financial awards on offer at the schools themselves, this typically means looking at each college or university website on an individual basis. However, the company yconic has

attempted to make this process slightly easier. Founded in 1998, the website is aimed at 16-22 year-olds both across Canada and worldwide. We paid a visit to the company's office in downtown Toronto to find out more from managing director Jon Kamin: "We are a scholarship aggregation and matching tool helping students pay for college and university. We focus our efforts on collecting information on financial assistance for students from foundations, universities, charities, and other organizations. Based on the information students provide us, we then narrow down the options to the awards for which they are eligible. We have also expanded into other tools and utilities that improve students' lives, such as a peer-to-peer support platform." yconic is also working in partnership with Scotiabank, one of Canada's international banks. As a "Student Champion", 2016 marks the fourth year of its National Scholarships, which are open to all those eligible to study in

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Canada; 30 students will receive \$2,500 each. The partnership is also aiming to encourage users to learn more about how to manage their money and build financial literacy skills. Scotiabank was originally the Bank of Nova Scotia, a province in eastern Canada, but has been based in Toronto for more than a century and is now the third largest bank in the country. It is also the only bank in Canada to have opened a dedicated multicultural banking department and director Puneet Mann said around 45% of all international students in Canada hold their money in a Scotiabank account.

Banking services are available before students even arrive in Canada, in one of two ways. The first is pre-arrival online account opening, allowing students to transfer money from their own bank accounts to their Scotiabank account. This provides the proof of funds necessary to enter Canada. The second is specifically for students from China, India and Pakistan, who may not have access to banking. "Therefore, they are unable to demonstrate that they have sufficient funds to cover one year's living expenses in Canada. As a result, we have built this into our offering," explained Puneet. "We invest the lump sum of money for students, which they are able to earn interest on. We then allocate a monthly amount to the students so they don't accidentally spend all their money at once. This allays the fears of the parents and solves the government's problem of ensuring each student has sufficient funds for living expenses. This program also sped up the visa process, as students now only require a certificate from Scotiabank to support their visa application."

All of the schools we spoke to offer some form of financial assistance for international students, usually in the form of merit-based entrance scholarships. Many have received donations from generous international alumni who want to ensure students from their home countries are also able to benefit from a Canadian education. Nevertheless, schools are also implementing novel ways of ensuring a wide range of young people from around the world can come to Canada. For example, as well as scholarships to help those studying for the International Baccalaureate, or for students applying for certain programs, Brock University is going further. "We have partnered with organizations to help support international student refugees who are in financial need. One of the particular programs supported by Brock is the Daughters for Life Foundation, a Canadian charity providing full scholarships to young women who have been affected by the conflicts in the Middle East," explained James.

Sheridan's pot of money for international student scholarships currently stands at \$250,000 per year, but the college also aims to empower young people who come into financial difficulty during their time at the school, creating a situation which sounds very much like being paid to study! Andrew told us how "a portion of this funding is devoted to our work/study program; if an international student comes to us in financial need, we



will come up with an opportunity for the student to work within the college to solve that problem while also enhancing the student's academic experience. For example, an international student artist was financially challenged in her final year. The International Student Centre engaged her to create unique artisanal gifts for our global partners, which was beneficial for us and enabled the student to build her portfolio, which helped her increase her chances of success after university."

Ottawa takes a different approach entirely to the tuition fee situation, as Gary explained: "We aim to keep our tuition fees fairly low, rather than charging high prices and then offering large scholarships to offset this. Therefore, our scholarship offering is fairly limited, at between 50 to 100 students per year. Furthermore, any international students coming to uOttawa and choosing to study mostly in French will see their fees reduced to the same as we charge domestic Canadian students."

Most programs now qualify an international student for a Canadian study permit that also allows for up to 20 hours of work per week during term time, and full-time work during the holidays. As well as this, almost all college programs and a large majority of university programs have a co-op or other work placement option, after Waterloo's founders, who were active in business and entrepreneurship, set the trend: "A co-operative education combines academic studies with work experience; Waterloo co-op students alternate between one semester of academic studies and one semester in a full-time, paid job. We have more than 6,300 employers hiring our students every year; our students can earn \$45,000-\$85,000 in the professional world while completing their degree," said Scott at Waterloo.

Final thoughts

University rankings are a useful tool for students to help make their decision on higher education, but are by no means perfect. With a population one-tenth the size of the United States, Canada necessarily has far fewer universities and

colleges. However, the general quality of that education is far higher than its neighbour. Gary at uOttawa explained what is going on: "These rankings look at perhaps 15,000 to 20,000 universities and publish a list of the top 400-500, which is 3% of all universities. In Ontario, at least seven of our 20 universities are in the top 500, which is around 30% of the universities in this province alone. We are up against the perception that because roughly half of the top 500 universities are located in the United States, this points to a high quality of education across the board. But about 20% of Canadian universities are in the top 500, compared to only 3% of U.S. institutions. We can therefore truly claim that Canada's education system is of fantastic quality; indeed, uOttawa is ranked higher than about 97% of the education providers in the United States."

We asked every college and university we met with why international students should choose to continue their education in Canada and we kept receiving the same responses: safe environment, choice of programs, quality education, reasonable fees, welcoming society, multiculturalism, natural beauty, cosmopolitan cities... the list is endless. This was summed up by Carolyn at Western: "Canada is the winner of the decathlon. We don't necessarily win each event, but we are the overall winner when taking the average of all the categories. We have a high quality of life, good healthcare and a safe environment. We offer many students the opportunity to work here after graduation. We are relatively affordable and our society is both diverse and cosmopolitan."

With that and thousands of kilometres on the clock, our road trip is complete.



Harriet Bailey

University of Manchester (UK) alumnus



Ty Jeevaratnam

McGill University (CA) alumnus

UPSIDE DOWN IN THE NETHERLANDS

RACHEL WRITES FROM EXPERIENCE ABOUT HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF LEARNING ABROAD

There is an old caricature of Australians that because we are in the southern hemisphere we must stand on our heads. My experience has been a little different to that, where I felt I was on my feet in my hometown of Brisbane, Australia, to having my life turned upside down by moving to the other side of the world to study in the Netherlands. When I say my life was turned upside down I mean this in a positive way, because never has an experience challenged and shaped me as much as this one.

I am about to commence my final year of a Bachelor of International Studies at Leiden University and currently live in the city of The Hague. My journey began a little differently to those of my fellow colleagues as I came to the Netherlands to take a risk on love, and be with a Dutch girl I met in my hometown. Little did I know at the time that I would fall in love with more than her, but would also come to love the Netherlands and Europe in general. There are four main lessons I have learned these past years, and I would like to share them with you in the hope that this will encourage some of you to study in the Netherlands, but also to encourage all of you to consider doing your bachelor abroad.

Lesson one: Cultural differences are something to celebrate

The concept of culture is hard to define, and a singular Dutch culture does not exist. However, there were some Dutch traditions or habits that stood out to me as contrasting with my own cultural background. I mean, it took some adjusting from riding my kangaroo around to switching to cycling everywhere I went. Jokes aside, living in a different environment to the one you know can bring conflict within yourself and with other people. An example of this that I encountered was a Dutch holiday called Sinterklaas that has some controversy surrounding it. While I was exploring the values behind this holiday I was able to open myself up to aspects of the Dutch culture that clashed with mine, but realised that the answers often aren't black and white. These cultural differences are



sometimes worth resolving, but most of the time it is an opportunity to embrace a new way of life.

Lesson two: Facing your fears will develop your character for the better

Facing your fears is easy to avoid. It's almost instinctive that if we feel uncomfortable, we remove ourselves from that situation. Over the past three years of living in the Netherlands I have realised that embracing my fears has been the single most important catalyst in helping me to achieve academic success, to make new friends and to develop my personality. To be sure, there have been many, many, many times where I have felt out of my comfort zone adapting to a new country. Small things that were easy at home now seemed threatening, like figuring out how to pay taxes! There are around 16,000km between me and my family, and at times feeling alone has been the greatest challenge. However,

feeling alone has also been the greatest blessing because at these times you adapt, and get to know yourself, and you put yourself out there and you create a new home.

Lesson three: Learning a new language will broaden your horizons

Learning the language of the country you reside in, or another language entirely, is not just about practicality. There is so much power in language and it will give you an advantage in your academic and working career. However, more than this, language is also about culture, and about people, and so learning a new language will open up a whole part of the culture that you could not access otherwise. This is for two reasons; the first one is linguistic – some words are not translatable and thus must be learned in context. One example of this is the Dutch word 'gezellig' which can be roughly translated to 'cosy', but when you get to know the social and linguistic settings in which it is used, you will find there is much more meaning behind the word. The second reason is that for whatever reason, I have found that when locals see you attempting to speak their language it brings softness to their hearts, and they will open up to you more than they perhaps would have otherwise. This doesn't even mean you have to learn a language fluently, even just a few phrases will go a long way to enriching your life.

Lesson four: Your academic journey can shape your personal journey if you let it

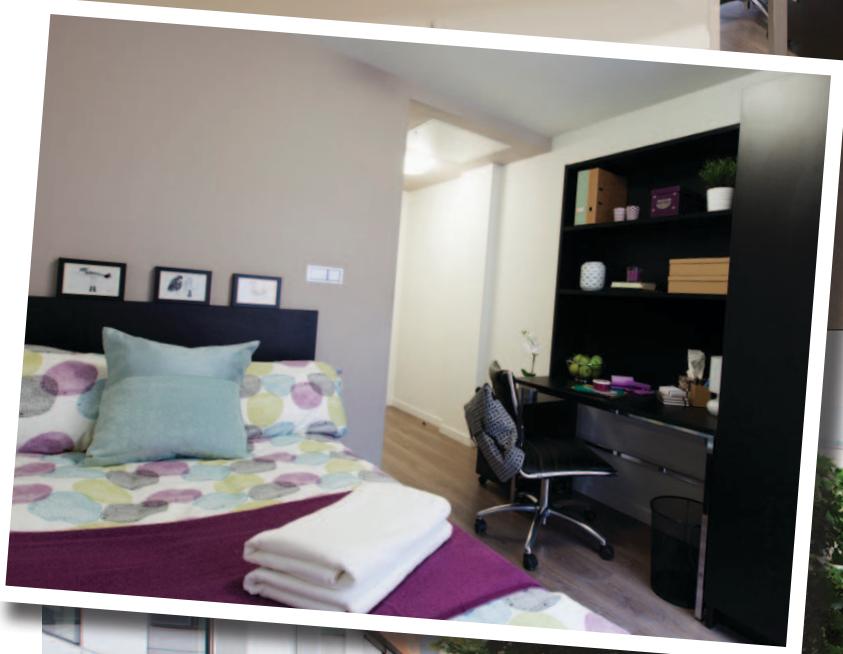
The content of my bachelor has not only shaped how I view academic concepts but also how I view the world. The nature of my programme is political and cultural, but all academic concepts were at some point relevant to the world we live in, and thus can shed light on reality as it is or was. Where possible, I have explored topics that were of personal interest to me, for example feminism, or that I felt challenged my, or mainstream, understanding. I feel I was able to do this because of the international environment in which I study, as it contributed so many different perspectives that I had no choice but to question my own understanding of the world.

My goal in this piece has been to explore my experience of studying in the Netherlands in a way that inspires you to seriously consider turning your own life upside down and studying in an environment that is foreign to you. I am happy to say that not only have I been very successful in my studies, but also that the risk for love was worth it. ●

Rachel Quennell is a student of International Studies (BA) at Leiden University in Leiden, the Netherlands.

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FIVE THINGS YOU'LL LEARN STAYING IN STUDENT HALLS

EMMA AND JOHN GIVE US THEIR ADVICE ABOUT UNIVERSITY HALLS

Moving away from home to start university is a big step, and where you choose to live is one of the most important decisions you'll make. Moving into student accommodation is a right of passage for many students, and there are so many different lessons you will learn from your time there.

We have spoken to students who are living at Pure Student Living accommodation, Emma and John, about the things they have learnt during their time in halls, and any advice they think would be helpful for future students.

Don't worry if you don't connect with your roommates

Emma: When I first came to uni, I had this idea that I would immediately become best friends with my roommates and that we'd be friends forever. What I didn't think about was the fact that people have so many different kinds of personalities, and you won't immediately click with everyone you meet.

John: My advice would be don't stick to the first people you come across, and don't be too disheartened if you don't become best friends with the people you live with. There are so many other opportunities to meet people throughout university, and you're probably more likely to gel with people on your course or at the societies you join.

Location is everything

John: Make sure your accommodation isn't in the middle of nowhere, because the wrong location can have a real detrimental effect on your university experience. Some of my friends live in accommodation which is really far away from the university and the city centre. They have a much longer commute than I do, and nights out can be a real pain!

Emma: Go and visit your accommodation before you sign. See how close it is to your university and get a feel for the surrounding amenities. It's all well and good having a decent room, but it's better to be in the centre of things if you want the real university experience.

Safety is really important

Emma: I've visited lots of different student accommodation that

have very little security. Some of your roommates can be careless at times and leave doors open or invite people round they don't know very well, so it's always worth checking out the security.

Some places have 24 hour security, others have guards on site at set times and some have very little in regards to safety. During your visit, ask the current tenants what the security is like and have a look at the types of locks and gates.

It's worth taking full advantage of the extras

Emma: I love the common room at my accommodation. It's always full of students hanging out and they have movie nights that everyone is welcome to. It's a great way to meet new people and a really fun place to hang out between studies.

John: Our accommodation has a gym as well, which is amazing. Sometimes after a long day in university it feels really great to release some much-needed endorphins. There is a group of us who always go together, and it's always a great place to meet like minded students.

It's worth checking out the extras at your chosen accommodation, as social areas are really great for meeting people and bonding with your fellow students.

Make the most of it!

Emma: My best advice would be to make the most of your time there. It goes by quicker than you could even imagine, and it's rare that you will ever be in a situation again where you live surrounded by your best friends.

John: The connections made, the parties thrown and the rooms decorated will soon be a distant memory so make sure you make the most of your time in student accommodation. ●

Rosa Mitchell is a writer for Pure Student Living, who provide luxurious student accommodation for students across London.

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GROWING UP WITH FREEDOM

VINDHYA TALKS FONDLY ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF LIVING IN DENMARK AND WHAT THIS MEANS TO HER

Ever since I was welcomed into the red and white arms of Denmark, I fell in love. I moved here at the age of three, and have come to love this beautiful country for ten years and counting. I realise now that as a three year old, this was the ideal place to be brought up. A place surrounded by laughter, and happiness, and freedom for children. I will always remember the daily walks to the forest with my kindergarten. How all of the other kids and I were so carefree; running, and jumping, and messing around. I loved the idea that we could do just as we pleased, and it was perfectly alright to return back home with rocks in our socks, twigs in our hair and mud smothered all over our faces. I loved that as kids we were embraced with the gift of freedom early on, a gift that I so deeply treasure and will never take for granted. I believe that because we were given this gift it helped us to become independent and taught us that it was alright to make mistakes. That it was alright to experiment and try new things, it was alright if things didn't work out, and it was alright if we fell flat on our faces. This is all thanks to the freedom, trust, and many other values that Denmark showers upon kids so early on.

But it's not just my kindergartener self that got to experience this freedom every single day, I do too. For example every morning I take public transport to school. Having talked to my friends in Dubai, England, America and India, they all look at me with gaping mouths and widening eyes whenever I tell them this. They simply cannot believe that I take public transport by myself to school and back. Most of them are dropped to school or take the school bus. Here almost everyone takes public transport, right from the age of seven. It is completely safe and you will find lots of other kids on the trains, buses and metros. I remember once when I was around nine years old I got on the wrong train by accident. I started silently crying on the train and people immediately came over to me, offering their comfort and help. One woman even took the train back with me and waited until my mum came to pick me up. The fact that people here are so willing to help creates an invisible safety net that makes it so safe for young children in Denmark.

As for those who don't take public transport, well that brings me on to another aspect of freedom; cycling. Cycling is such a huge culture here in Denmark. Right from the sun's golden rays, to the cloudy and windy days, you will always see cyclists filling up the streets like a swarm of busy bees. It is very common for children to cycle to school. What I think makes it so easy and safe to cycle to school is the fact that there are cycle lanes. Without them it would be extremely difficult and would not give young children the freedom to cycle by themselves. Cycling also gives me the possibility to be able to go and hang out with my friends, rather than having to wait longer for public transport, or relying on my parents to drop me there.

Having talked about all of this freedom that Denmark gives to kids right from the early stages, I wonder whether that freedom is even freedom? By this I mean to say, is this so called 'freedom' equally distributed? Is it the same for all religions, genders, backgrounds? Because honestly, what would freedom be if it wasn't? Well the reality is yes; here the freedom is equally distributed. The fact that freedom here is just the same for everybody makes me feel happy and content, just knowing that no one is being robbed of their rights. However, this may be the case in Denmark but it is not the case for everywhere in the world. It makes me sad to think that here I am sitting, having a good education, learning more and more by the day. While some children don't even have the freedom and right to go to school, some children can't because their families can't afford to send them. This isn't fair at all, why do I get to go to school and not them? What makes me more special or important? I say let's give these kids a chance, let's give them a voice, and lets work on how to make freedom even more freeing. ●

Vindhya Kathuria is a year 8 student at Rygaards International School in Copenhagen, Denmark.

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FROM BUDAPEST TO THE NETHERLANDS

VIRÁG TELLS US ABOUT HER DECISION TO STUDY ABROAD AND HOW THIS HAS SHAPED HER FUTURE



Studying abroad is definitely one of best decisions I have ever made. I love the Netherlands, I love my school, the programme and the opportunities it offers. Hotelschool The Hague really gives you a passport to the world with its Bachelor programme and I met people from all over the world who I can call my friends now. If you are open minded, ambitious and would like to connect with people from all over the globe, and simultaneously attend one of top five Bachelor programmes in Hospitality Management in the world, then Hotelschool The Hague is the place for you.

Why study abroad?

Attending and graduating from a British High School in Budapest gave me the opportunity to study abroad. This is how I came across Hotelschool The Hague. The first time I came in contact with Hotelschool The Hague was through the internet; I found the school's website when I was browsing through possible schools that offer a Bachelor in Hospitality Management.

Business case for Hospitality Business School

My father was the reason I became interested in the hospitality

industry. He had been working in the industry and owned his own hotel when I was younger. I told him that I wanted to study abroad to obtain a Bachelor degree in Hospitality. Basically, I had to convince my father by giving him a PowerPoint presentation that showed exactly what the different study programmes offered, which Alumni network they have and the price/quality ratio of each school. I decided to do that for all the top 10 Hotel Schools worldwide, so I could tell my father that I did all my research and I knew which school was most suitable for me. After the presentation, my father agreed to a Bachelor in Hospitality Management, because he knows the industry and he knew this would benefit my future career possibilities.

Life changing event

It was a major change to move from Hungary to the Netherlands; at first I missed my family and friends a lot. I used to go back to Hungary regularly because it is only a two-hour flight away. What mainly differentiates the Netherlands from Hungary is that Dutch people seem to be happier and more open, which really appeals to me. As soon as I got to know more people here, I did not feel the urge to go back to Hungary that often.



Making friends in the Netherlands was pretty easy, as all first year students are in the same situation as you. This makes it easy to relate to each other and creates a strong community. All first year students live in Hotelschool The Hague's student accommodation, the Skotel. In Skotel, students share a kitchen and living room with 15 other people and share a bedroom with one other student. This first year is the start of many life-long friendships.

View on your future

What I like best about Hotelschool The Hague's Bachelor programme is that it offers you a Bachelor in Hospitality Management. Therefore, you get courses in Finance, Sales & Marketing, Human Resources, Law, Training and Management Skills and Strategic Management. Next to this, there is also the practical learning experience. The school has its own hotels and restaurants, where you learn the basics. Overall, you learn to work individually as well as in groups. It makes the degree very diverse, meaning that you can pursue a career in

the hospitality industry or industries where hospitality makes a difference.

My personal preferences actually shifted from a career in hospitality to a career in HR or Marketing after my first placement. The first placement is right after you finish your first year, it is a practical placement in the hospitality industry. I did my placement in a hotel with 91 rooms in Paris. I look back on it with mixed feelings. It really showed me that the hospitality industry is a great environment to work in, but at the same time you are working when nobody else is. Personally, I prefer having regular working hours, which are less common when working in the hospitality industry.

After my first placement, I went back to The Hague to start the final phase of the four year programme of the study. Currently, I am still in this phase and it is my favourite. During this last year you truly apply everything you have learned in the previous years and start orientating on your future career. I am definitely leaning towards a career in Human Resources or Marketing and I hope to do my last placement in one of these fields. After I have finished the Bachelor programme at Hotelschool The Hague, I want to find a job and work for two years to get some experience. In the future, I would like to apply for a Master programme in the field of Human Resources or Marketing to complement my Bachelor degree, but for now I will fully enjoy my last phase at Hotelschool The Hague. ●

Virág Darvalics is a Hungarian student studying abroad at Hotelschool The Hague in the Netherlands. She has just started her last year of the Bachelor programme.

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Q&A IWAN THOMAS

ANTHONY AND NATHAN

ARE LET LOOSE ON

THE OLYMPIC SPRINTERS

Iwan Thomas is a former Welsh sprinter who represented the UK in the Olympic Games in 1996 and won Silver in the 400m. He also holds the British record for the fastest 400m. He started off as a BMX racer, winning over 400 trophies in 7 years. He then switched to athletics when he was 18 whilst studying for a degree in Sports Studies. He primarily ran 4 x 400m relay and won copious amounts of medals in World and European championships. He recently took part in BBC's Strictly Come Dancing, although he maybe should have stuck to athletics as he was the first contestant to be voted out.

Name: Iwan Thomas

Age: 42

Home town: Southampton

Countries visited: Ah man... a lot, but my favourite one would be Australia.

Age first started competing: 16/17

Likes: fast bikes, fast cars, watching movies and eating burgers

Dislikes: slow bikes, slow cars and salad

What was your inspiration to become an Olympic athlete?

I would say my PE teacher inspired me to start, when he saw that I could run fast, and also the 1991 World Championships when GB won the Gold for the 4X400 metres.

As a child, how did you juggle your school life, and athletics?

Well, I didn't really do athletics as a child. I did BMXing though from the age of 11, but it wasn't that hard because it was only on the weekends. I was ranked 4th in Europe as an international competitor.

What difficulties did you have to overcome in order to become the Olympian you are?

Sustaining injuries, trying not to get injured, consistent training and learning to listen to your body when it needs rest.

What are you most proud of in your athletics career?

I would have to say my 1998 season when I became the European champion, Commonwealth Champion and World Cup champion all the while still holding the British record for 400 metres (44.36s).

What keeps you motivated when running?

Fear of failure.

Who did you most admire?

I admire anybody who is committed to whatever they do, anyone who works hard.

How did you feel about coming so close to winning the 4x400 metres in 1996, but coming in second by such a narrow margin?

Well I was really proud to win the Silver, especially since it was my first Olympics, but it's bittersweet as well, coming so close to gold and not getting it.

What was your dream job as a child?

To be a policeman or a stuntman

What advice would you give to people who are starting long distance running?

Set realistic goals and be patient with your progress. And when it hurts, just remember the reason why you're doing it. Never give up.

If you hadn't been a runner, what would you have done?

Probably something really random.

Do you feel you've missed out on anything by becoming so successful in athletics?

No, not really, I mean it got hard at times with all the traveling and training, but I've had so many good times meeting amazing people.

During peak season how much training were you doing?

6 days a week for 11 months of the year.

What do you feel is key to your success?

Ahh, hard work, determination, having a fantastic coach and never quitting.

Best advice you've ever been given?

The best advice I was given was before the European Championships. I was told to visualise what I wanted to be so leading up to the competition, I put up Post It notes on the mirror, on the fridge, anywhere, that said, "Iwan Thomas, European Champion" and seeing them everywhere helped me focus.

What was your biggest setback and how did you overcome it?

My career was cut short because of injuries, the worst one was when I ruptured my Achilles when training. I tried to maintain a positive attitude really.

What is your pre-race routine?

I warm up for about an hour and I have secret superstitions that I practice before the race. ●

 @Iwanrunner

Anthony and Nathan are students at the British International School of New York, USA.

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WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE BORN WITH A PASSPORT IN YOUR HAND

ELLA TALKS ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
AND SOME OF THE PLACES SHE'S BEEN

*Stockholm. Frosty winters, days cloaked in an aura of black.
Shenzhen. Caramel-sticky humid, fast life surrounded by people.
Sydney. An endless summer breeze, crashing salty waves.
Melbourne. Fresh-cut grass, rainstorms that flood the garden for days.
Kiev. Bustling streets, women selling pomegranate on cracked roads.
And... Tokyo. People at every glance, a world of flashing lights.*

Growing up internationally, I've constantly been bombarded with rich, luscious culture and a new city to explore nearly every two years. I've experienced a life that is always evolving, sensuously bombarding and at times overwhelming. But I've also had amazing opportunities, and been able to paint each day and each city with amazing friendships I'll never forget.

I started my life in Stockholm, a winter-wonderland full of beautiful skylights and nature. Although I don't remember much about living there as an infant, my memories are sharp when it comes to the atmosphere of my first two years on this Earth – a calm, happy introduction to life; filled with snowfall; delicate yet homely birch trees; and the sheltered warmth of our little white house.

What I remember about moving to Shenzhen, China, is minimal, but from what I've been told it was a bustling and frantic move. My parents had been living in Sweden for a long time – it was home – where both my brother and I had been born and raised up until that point. Living in China was like splashing yourself with icy water, familiar yet constantly surprising and startling. It was in China that I first experienced such sticky heat, dumplings and soy sauce. My brother and I spent most weekdays at kindergarten, where I met my first best friend, and on the weekends we participated in sightseeing, modelling and endless swimming in the compound pool.



Just two years after moving to Shenzhen, I was whisked off to Sydney, Australia, where we spent a couple of months before moving again to Melbourne. Australia was home right away, and I imagine we were all both relieved and excited to have reduced the extreme mileage between China and Sweden to our Aussie family. In Melbourne we spent lots of time at the neighbouring oval to our house, and often explored nearby parks and playgrounds with our bikes and mum. By age five, I was going to an all-girls school where I eagerly joined my classmates in activities such as finger-painting, play dough sculpting, song-singing and playing dress-ups. Even though I was still only five years old, I made some great friends whom I am still in contact with today and can even remember a Japanese song that my teacher taught me ("Arigatou's thank you, now we're nearly done, but 1, 2, 3 is ichi, ni, san!") – which



came in handy six years later when I arrived in Tokyo, Japan for more exciting adventures!

Leaving Melbourne was hard, as we had made so many friends and sentimental memories there. In 2011, three years was the longest time I had ever spent in a country.

Nevertheless, Ukraine was one of the most eye-opening places I have ever seen. Kiev was the kind of city where you are always on the edge of your seat – always waiting for what's going to happen next. But it was a beautiful city, and provided a bridge for exploration to countries I never would have been able to travel to. Kiev was shoving hustle, immense poverty, skinny flea-infested stray dogs, and dirty, grey streets. It was also a place of luscious culture; smiling babushkas selling exotic fruits and blooming flowers beside a bustling road; swearing, beeping, crazy drivers; half-collapsed abandoned buildings; and gold-topped, hand-decorated white structures. Kiev was definitely a place I will never forget.

We touched down in Japan in early January, unbeknown to us then that this would be the city in which I would finish my humble days of elementary school, then the fun, ambitious years of middle school, and begin the daunting final years of schooling, in high school. Aside from school though, Tokyo has been a complete and utter mind-boggling concrete jungle, with so many back-alleys and roundabouts of craze.

When I first hit that tarmac on a sleepy plane from Ukraine, I never would have thought in my wildest 9-year-old-dreams that everything I've seen here could ever be real. The prospect of even writing about this topic in this article terrified me, because I didn't know how I could ever cram my 6 year-

experience of Tokyo into a 1300 word-limit. Life in Tokyo is unimaginable to anyone who hasn't experienced it, and is like the tallest sandwich in the world, with never-ending layers and depth. Some memories I will take with me when I leave Japan will include the crazy makeup and costumes of strutting Harajuku-girls, the smoothest salmon sushi, the calm, polite blanket that the city lies beneath, the endless lines of people playing Pokemon while waiting for popcorn and the all-too-real possibility that some Japanese live in shoeboxes.

Although 90% of my Japanese experiences have been insightful and positive, there was one day that has really left an imprint on my life. That day was the 11th March 2011. The earthquake and tsunami that swept across the country on that day, killing an incomprehensible number of people, will always remind me of how lucky I was to not personally know anyone who lost their life on that day, or the inferno and panic that followed. When I leave Japan, that day will always stay with me.

Living abroad for 10 out of 14 years of my life has been breathtaking and constantly surprising. I have been so lucky to be gifted with such amazing experiences, and the opportunities I have been offered are those of dreams. I think these experiences have shaped my life into who I am today, and although sometimes it has been tough to leave friends; not understand any of the people around me; and be submerged in a place I know nothing about; if I were given the chance, I would not in a million lifetimes give it up. ●

Ella is a student at the British School in Tokyo, Japan.

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THE RHYME AND REASON OF SCHOOL POETRY

DR MATTHEW JENKINSON WRITES ABOUT HIS VIEWS OF
TEACHING POETRY IN SCHOOLS

I am not a published poet. Yet.

*The curious rat tries to open the door,
The sneaky rat scuttles across the floor,
The dirty rat doesn't know what he's in for.*

I am now a published poet. These stylish and profound lines were written on 11th September 1993. I was eleven and the poem was my first ever English homework at secondary school. I was meant to be writing a haiku. Oops. I then went on to write a poem about a nervous pupil - me? - which wasn't a haiku either.

I tell you this because it was, I think, my first ever exposure to poetry in school. It is certainly the first that I can remember. My exercise book tells me that I then went on to learn about similes, metaphors and alliteration. I then wrote an essay on why 'silence is golden', because my teacher got sick of my class being noisy, then a letter to Adolf Hitler trying to persuade him not to invade England. For whatever reason (the bonkers curriculum progression?) the next thing I remember about school poetry is William Blake's The Tiger, on the first page of my GCSE English anthology. Heaney. Duffy. Thomas. There must have been plenty of others, but I can't really remember them.

There is a pleasant irony, then, that I now spend much of my teaching life introducing eleven and twelve-year-olds to poetry. I don't ask them to write haikus about rats. What I should be asking them to do with poetry remains a perplexing issue. Part of me thinks they should be looking at the evolution of language, from Beowulf to, say, Jack Kerouac. Another part of me thinks they should be looking at the arrangement of

words and seeing how their placement creates certain effects. Another part thinks they should be sniffing out metaphors, similes, alliteration, whatever, and explaining why they have been used.

Yet another part of me thinks that my students should be learning about the historical and political context of the poems, so they can understand why they were written and where their meanings came from. (None of me thinks they should be engaging with literary theory.) Then there is the part of me that thinks we should be doing none of the above: someone has offered us their visceral emotions, and we dissect them, replacing the sum of a poem's parts with an accountant's spreadsheet of those parts, ticking off assonance or sibilance, as if that in itself constitutes an 'understanding' of poetry.

In *What is Poetry?*, the great 'Beat' poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti writes that 'Like a bowl of roses / A poem should not have to be explained'. But three things conspire to convince me that we should, to use an inappropriately awful metaphor, look under a poem's bonnet. The first is the number of adults to whom I speak who were put off poetry in childhood because no one explained to them what tricky poems meant. How many anthologies print poems, then walk away as if everyone will get what the poet is banging on about? The second is the fact that exam boards will always ask questions about the meaning and effects of poetry, and they will always expect students to employ technical terms when analysing poems. There is no point standing aloof from this, as utilitarian as it may seem. The third, most important, reason is because we learn how to write well by working out how accomplished writers do it. It is difficult to be inspired by a poet's technique, if we can't work out what that technique is.

But which poems should we teach and learn? Poetry in schools has a somewhat tweedy image, as if we all declaim Shakespeare or Walt Whitman in ominous, sonorous tones. This is an image to be challenged. There is so much more to poetry than being able to recite Ozymandias or The Charge of the Light Brigade by heart. Don't get me wrong; learning worthwhile literature by heart is a valuable skill. It provides entertainment when you are stuck on the underground, and it provides solace that generations have gone through the same heartache when you are facing times of emotional turmoil. But there are too many people wandering around who think they 'get' poetry because they know the first four lines of Daffodils.

Teachers like myself have a duty to reassess the canon, to preserve those poems that are worthwhile, to discard those whose life was artificially prolonged by the questionable taste of a few stodgy schoolmasters in the 1950s, and to replace them with unappreciated gems from any country, culture, or background. Alongside those gems, conversely, I would also argue that we have a duty to include in the mix those poems

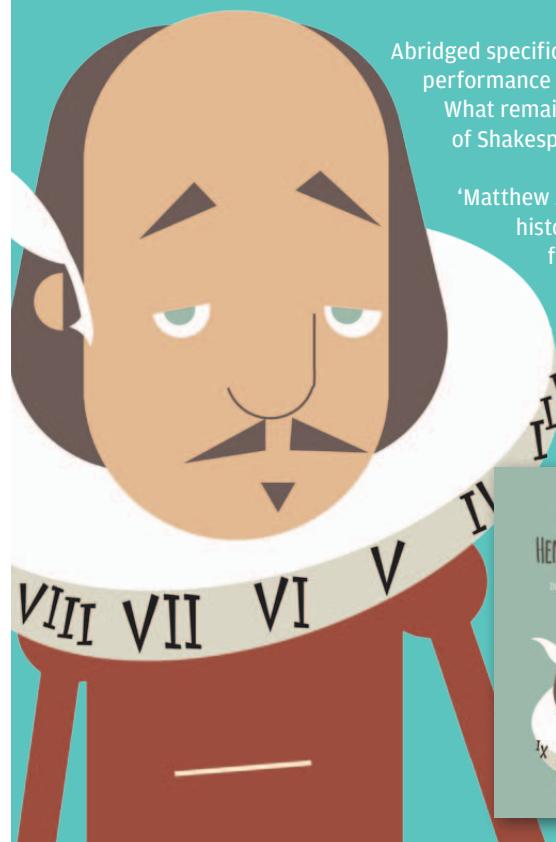
that may not be the most aesthetically-accomplished, but which represent important voices from key historical periods.

Perhaps The Curious Rat will make it into those ranks, telling us what eleven-year-olds thought about poetry, and how they misunderstood their homework, in the late twentieth century. Or perhaps we should leave poetry to those who are good at it. I suspect I would have been better at it if I had been given a basic introduction to poetic structure before being asked to write a poem. ●

Matthew Jenkinson is Deputy Head Academic at New College School, Oxford and is currently co-writing a book titled *How Poems Work*. He received his doctorate from Merton College, Oxford. He is the author of *Culture and Politics at the Court of Charles II, 1660-1685*, as well as numerous articles and reviews covering history, literature and education. He is the editor of the Hour-Long Shakespeare series: three volumes, each of three plays, providing manageable texts for performance or as an introduction to Shakespeare's greatest plays.

HOUR-LONG SHAKESPEARE

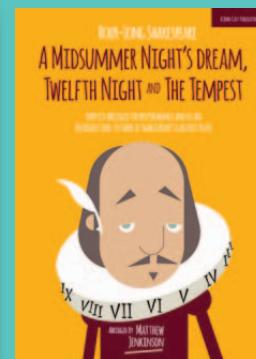
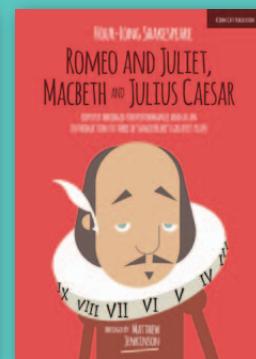
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COBIS STUDENT POETRY COMPETITION

STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE PICKED UP THEIR PENS AND
TOOK ON THE CHALLENGE OF WRITING A POEM ON 'JOURNEYS'

This year's winning entries in the COBIS Student Poetry Competition have truly demonstrated the wealth of poetic talent which can be found in British International Schools around the world. An amazing 685 students provided us with their take on the subject of 'journeys' in 40 lines or less, which we thoroughly enjoyed reading (who knew there could be so many variations on one simple concept!). Here at World Student we'd therefore like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who entered, and to congratulate this year's winners and runners up. It is so important that the art of poetry is allowed to flourish in today's classrooms, and your work has demonstrated just how fantastic the results of this can be. If, on reading the winning entries for this year's competition, you decide you've got what it takes to be the next William Wordsworth, then why not send us your latest poetic creation? Who knows, you may even end up in our next issue...

For me, poetry is like a code; each word a hidden meaning, each stanza a puzzle needing to be unlocked. Beneath this mask is an array of thought, feelings, experiences and life jumbled together in beautiful language. Each word, each comma, each break represents something, anything. – Sacha (Y12)

Personally, I am a huge fan of poetry! I think that it is a valuable way to catch and make permanent the thoughts and feelings of a poet from a single moment in time. I absolutely feel that it has a crucial place in modern society; without it we would be losing an indispensable means of expressing our every thought and emotion through words. – Sasha (Y9)

In the words of Rudyard Kipling, 'words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind'. I entirely agree with this and believe that poetry makes a vital contribution to both the well-being of poets and readers. – Vanessa (Y11)

10 YEARS AND UNDER

Winner: Felix Gatty Saunt
The British School in the
Netherlands, Netherlands.

Are we Nearly There Yet?

Are we nearly there yet?
The engine starts to roar.

Are we nearly there yet?
Mum says "lock the doors".

Are we nearly there yet?
Time to share the snacks.

Are we nearly there yet?
Tuck in, shoes off, relax!

Are we nearly there yet?
Dad suggests eye spy.

Are we nearly there yet?
Brother starts to cry.

Are we nearly there yet?
The channel is in sight.

Are we nearly there yet?
This is better than a flight.

Are we nearly there yet?
England isn't far.

Are we nearly there yet?
Get me out of this car!

Runner Up: Vlad Oancea
Campion Junior School, Greece.

The Traveller

As the traveller went along
He wondered what was wrong
Was it the mountains that tore up the sky?
Or the lakes waters that went to the end of the
world?

Bang went his horse!
Trapped they were by wild animals
The horse made a run
He dashed like the wind itself has given birth to it
The horse froze, like an ice block

There was a hut
So little as it was
Only for a need
Life, for a person

The traveller saw life sparkle through his eyes
From where was it?

Nature, the mountains
Then he realised, it was his heart

All the happiness in there told, go on
As the traveller went to his horse

He carried on the joy
As he went on and on
Spreading that joy
To the world.

Winner: Emmanuella Chukwu
Atlantic Hall, Nigeria

Journey

From the first day our very eyes saw light
Our 'o' shaped mouths emitting wondrous cries
To the day we proved we were full of might
Bonding together weak, god-forsaken ties.

From the day our feet padded on the hard ground
Swaying a slow gentle dance
To the day we freed the slave-bound
Releasing them to the world of chance

From the day we blubbered utter hogwash
Speaking as though it were in tongues
To the day we spoke boldly making everyone shush
Reeling from those that sang us a pity song

From the day we held our first pen with pride
Gripping onto it as though it were our lifeline
To the day we sold books worldwide
No more staring in wonder at the side-lines

From the day we sat in class
Not understanding a single thing
To the day we taught a class
Educating every being

From the day we shed our first tears
Mourning in sorrow and sadness

To the day we joked with our peers
Bringing forth unalloyed gladness

From the day we stared at the shining stars aligned
Wondering about their mysteries
To the day we took a huge step for mankind
Making a permanent mark forever in history

From the day we ran childishly away from love
Believing in a fore tale that were cooties
To the day we were bounded by a white dove
To realms of precious beauties

From the day we stood at the altar
Holding tightly to our loved one
To the day we celebrated our fortieth anniversary
The inextinguishable passion yet to be gone

From the day we took our first breath
Born into a world of great risks
To the day we made a date with death
Bringing an end to the grand bliss

With a journey like this
We now share a tale
Of a rocky adventure
Full of wonder and keys to prevail.

Runner Up: Mathula Muhundan
Doha College, Qatar

The Old Man's Ballad

Twitching, trembling fingers
A brave new world
Twinkling, mirrored eyes, reflecting in the sights
All of a sudden,
there are voices
singing a lullaby
my eyes restore to everlasting darkness
after the glimpse of light, a glimpse of colour
I wish I could have seen more
Where the beauty of the invisible sound came from.

Every corner of the derelict, tire-treaded streets
That nobody contemplated repairing
I have ran, and ran and stridden on for aeons on end.
This place is a mess, is no longer
of any enchantment
or whimsical fantasy.
Surfing the pavements
Cracked,
Bare,
Fragmented

I stop and stare down at the limpid park pond
So clear, yet reveals the murkiness within
When night awakens,
The ebony ether, starless, dare not shine
even its obscured moon on such a scandalous settlement as this
Life is appalling
Without simple things getting their simple desires
Even the ebbing tide dies
Because the moon does not do its duty obscured by steely clouds
Somber guards of misery

The conflict is against us
Terrific beginning, abysmal end
That never stops
Opposed to them capricious legends
The messengers of warfare, with their boundlessly large mouths and diminutive brains,
making thousands of peoples' own choices for them
Bring along rains, torrents of crimson, suffering beyond human tolerance, losses
And I lie here, shriveled and derelict as my surroundings
Singing a last ballad, having no choice, having lost too much
As long as my days are—

Winner: Chloe Elliot
Dubai College, United Arab Emirates

UNDO

At 5:12AM
I am in our spot
old light and sleepy bones
watching flashes of you unwind in cosmic pictures:
you are back home, the grey in your skin slowly unfolds
to a glowing pink, you ungrow your bitten nails and porcelain wrists unchip
the denial that haunts your limbs slips away
whilst the veined routes outlining the alps of your spine sink.

You stop being distant and the gap between us is no longer a cliff.

Unwrite the letter and we feign the numb of eleven months
returning to calcium flamed walls and syntax that evaporates on the tongue ten
unbend the orange heavens and forget the smell
of viscous regret and brittle words too blunt to stitch the wound
back to unbroken eulogies and unstable desire
back to burnt-out carparks that still cradle your absence
back to 9AM nosebleeds like your heart has finally erupted.

Unplump the clouds knitted in a sky cracked open
and spit out the dawn whispering I hate yous in a foreign room
short-chained dreams that reduce to falsetto breaths
we migrate across dark crescents eclipsed by midnight smiles

blinking, as I watch you revel in the irreversible.

Clock strikes and we climb up the stairs to a balcony where the night untraces the constellations of your cheeks
collarblades of soot unblacken to a pilgrimage of skin,
muddy footsteps trace home towards a summer of insoluble horoscopes whilst
your hair plummets 8 inches to your waist once more

the loneliness is reborn as
I watch you untangle a tide of memories on a martyr drenched pillow,
replanting lilies, detach yourself from the broach of your father's arms
seven the caving grief dissipates and
your grandmother is alive again, your words no longer burn.

Dismantle june and may is still a month instead of a euphemism,
we are whole once again and the
sadness slides over an unripened year,
suddenly you are unsad and we are back in a library that no longer aches, I am unmissing you because we have
never met, journeying back to the start
six uncrack the mirror, we are strangers of a distorted reflection
five I am unfizzled stardust that lurks between the blissfully empty lines of you for
I start to fade and you are unsad and it does not matter because
three I unexist and you are excited to grow up too
and we are one.

Runner up: Rai Saad Ullah Khan
The British School of Bahrain, Kingdom of Bahrain

Metro Missus Speaks of a Lady's Grocery Journey

PLEASE MIND THE GAP
 BETWEEN: the train and her station,
 Physical train-line manifestation and a topological metro map,
 Reality and expectation,
 ThaiLand and NetherLands,
 Public space and Private space,
 Words and hidden translations, supply and Demands,
 A pound and 70 pence, Acceptable and Commonplace,
 A platform and a hole.

STAND CLEAR OF: The doors as they close,
 Pickpockets as they fondle, Passengers reaching their destination
 With no regard for yours, Tourists as they ask you to pose,
 Pumping milk as they screech indecency, any real allegations
 As they cry 'the boy who cried wolf' - yet all your sheep wool shredded,
 Your sons as they grow, Inflating train dowries as they claim rightful dues,
 Falling in love with a stranger as you have no idea where they headed,
 A fading opening as they show an oncoming closing.

THIS STATION IS: Harrow-on-the-hill,
 Downing Street (79'-90'), Trafalgar Square of commuting birds and blokes,
 Queensway-to-equal-succession-act, Lady-on-the-pill,
 Barons Court of Equal Custody, Baker Street of no more sandwich jokes,
 Reached –but-don't-forget-the-lessons-learnt-in-the-journey,
 A-cause-for-celebration-on-path-for-more.

CHANGE HERE FOR: Victoria Line from Edward Line,
 Speakers Corner from British Museum Library,
 City of London Financial District from Harrow Primary School, Sunshine
 From force-fed shade, All-night Express from War-time Curfew, Flowering berry
 From popped cherry, Royal Courts' deliberations from West End theatrics,
 A fulfilling path from a fool's errand.

THIS TRAIN TERMINATES AT: Queensbury via Jubilee Line,
 London-light via staircase ascent from blinking LED-lights in downstairs' darkness,
 Endless possibilities, opportunities and adventures at the station via divine
 Intervention of the concerned government that took choo-choo and made progress,
 Daily self-discoveries via the squeals-of-chit-chatting like Charlie-Chapman's scripts,
 Earth's atmospheric and cultural disintegration via boycotted Mars manned mission,
 Permanent Venus habitat via armed terra-formed uprising of plastic nips,
 Population destruction via fertility decline via sterilizations via ambition
 Via redefinition of simple addition via rhetorician via lack of good condition,
 Wherever she wills it to end vis-à-vis her rights.

ART AND MY LIFE

INTRODUCING A NEW MUSICIAN

My name is Vlad and I am ten years old. I live in Cluj Napoca, in the heart of Transylvania, Romania. I love it here because it is a great, lovely and inspiring city that has a huge artist community.

I am a more into-art kind of person and this has had a huge impact on my life. A good impact, I might say! You won't find me doing anything else but playing the guitar or recording something in my free time.

Why have I chosen this path? Because it may lead to my desired goals and aspirations. Trust me, when you get the taste of it, you can't ever say it isn't rewarding.

I have numerous accomplishments to my credit but despite this fact, my parents are afraid that I may fail and not obtain a successful career. I am aware that there are numerous unaccomplished artists but with perseverance and a little bit of luck, you may get it right... Who doesn't want to be the Awesome Slash or The Great Steve Vai? Why wouldn't anyone give it a try if this is what their passion is?

Almost all people who work hard get the desired result. It is just a matter of time... and practice, lots of practice! Right now, art is not as appreciated in Romania as it should be, but I am confident that this will change. I love all I do and that is important to me. I am sure that all will end up well if I stick to my vision.

The future will be on my side and it is my hope that you will be hearing about me. ●

Vlad Morar is a student at Translyvania College, Romania.

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A photograph of the London skyline at sunset, featuring the Shard skyscraper on the left and the Tower Bridge in the center-right. The River Thames flows in the foreground, with a boat visible. The sky is a warm orange and yellow.

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