

My name is Chanasuek Puengpak but everyone calls me “Tonsom”, well, because it’s my nickname. My father is currently a general in the royal thai army, and on my mother’s side, they own several businesses – most prominently an orange orchard in Chiang Mai (which is where my nickname “Tonsom”, which translates to “Orange Tree” in Thai, comes from. Throughout my student life I’ve studied in many places; I started off at Harrow International School Bangkok and stayed there for 11 years (from nursery up until year 7). I then transferred to Vajiravudh College, an all – boys boarding school in Bangkok – as per an agreement my grandparents made before I was born. In year 11 I received a full scholarship from the king to study at Cranbrook Kingswood Schools in Michigan, USA for 18 months. After that I came back to Vajiravudh for my senior year of high school and graduated from there.

I aspire to someday become a political leader, but not for the sake of power. My motivation is always rooted in service; by maximizing benefit for society whether at the national or global level. I’m open to leadership in various forms as long as it allows me to advance our democracy and social justice. So, naturally, I chose to study political science, international relations, and political history because it will equip me with the necessary perspectives and knowledge to pursue my passion in leadership.

