"Interruption!" said my late grandfather and political inspiration during Suharto's dictatorial regime (1967-1998) in the people's consultative assembly, where interruptions were prohibited. His ability to vocalise against injustices made me eager to uphold what my grandfather instilled: politics is sacred. To continue his legacy, I plan to establish my own path by constructing a new political nuance.

Interviewing Joko Widodo, Indonesia's current president, for an independent research project taught me the importance of systems in government. I went on to examine how his rival, Prabowo Subianto, joined his ministerial cabinet. I found that despite their differences in political ideology (individualistic) they shared a mutual interest in upholding Pancasila (collectivistic), Indonesia’s national ideology, which is an ideal portrayal of a representative democracy. The study gained me recognition from executives of Indonesian think tanks and a seat in critical conversations amongst …. For instance, when discussing the recent government decision to raise fuel prices due to inflation, I suggested that programmes that benefit the citizens’ welfare should be subsidised.

As one of the editors and sole advisor for a member of the parliament book called 'Diplomasi parliamen dan Politik Luar Negeri R’ I applied psychological theories to inspect motives behind Indonesia's foreign policy; how democracy was first introduced, and its progression as a result. From these experiences, my view of politics evolved - I discovered that politics is not just a subject within its own realm but one that integrates others. This made me understand political matters in a pragmatic and comprehensive approach - not only to assess issues but also provide solutions that consider all factors and unintended consequences.

After witnessing a Pro-Palestine rally outside of the US Embassy, I researched the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Exploring their foreign policy made me understand that the USA’s interest in the conflict comes from a shared commitment to democracy and regional security, which ties back to the findings of my study that mutual belief of society surpasses individualistic values. I continued my investigation in the Oxford University international politics summer program, where I discovered that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is much more complex than the common media portrayal of the conflict being solely a religious root issue. There are other contributing factors such as land territory.

Representing North Korea at the London International Model United Nations (LIMUN) Conference made me understand diplomatic processes further. My role involved researching and discussing threats from cyberspace with fellow delegates to find a collective solution that married with the theme of 'Peace and Security'. Recognising the need for international collaboration in finding solutions to global problems made me reminisce about my dear friend, Miguel Panduwinata, whose life was lost in the downing of flight MH17 in 2014. The book, 'Bellingcat,' discusses how the global intelligence network uses open-source data to carry out international investigations. It gave me solace as it simplified what happened based on evidence - having access to publicly available data allowed the truth to be revealed after seven years. I thought about this during my LIMUN experience. Contrary to nationalising cyberspace, the resolution I proposed was that cyberspace intelligence should be transparent, and information should be exchanged between countries.

Through the holistic skills and knowledge I will gain during my undergraduate study, I plan to be an advocate of change in restoring political sacredness and strengthening international relations by upholding moral values and reforming the systematic flaws in Indonesia’s system by adopting better and proven systems from other countries.