"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. This transformative event made me eager to uphold what my grandfather instilled: Politics is sacred.

I was privileged to interview Joko Widodo, Indonesia's current president, for an independent research project where I learned the importance of a system in a government to keep order. I extended my study to examine how his rival, Prabowo Subianto, joined the coalition of Joko Widodo's presidency in his ministerial cabinet, through a psychological lens. The study gained me recognition from executives of Indonesian think tanks and a seat in critical conversations. My ability to contextualise and observe was valued in discussions about the government’s recent decision to raise fuel prices in response to world inflation; as well as developing strategies for political candidates’ performance. This gave me an opportunity to become an editor and advisor for a members of the parliament book called ‘Diplomasi parliamen dan Politik Luar Negeri R’. We applied a similar framework to my study, where psychological theories were utilised to inspect motives behind Indonesia's foreign policy; how democracy was first introduced, and its progression as a result. My exploration on foreign policy made me see how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is epitome of Israelite imperialism.

This was a similar topic I explored in the Oxford University led international politics summer program I participated in. I discovered that the Israeli-Palestinian is much more complex than the common media portrayal of the conflict being solely a religion root issue as there are other contributing factors suchlike land territory. From the application of my studies, I discovered that politics is not just a subject within its realm but one that integrates others to magnify its own.

I was chosen to represent North Korea at the London International Model United Nations (LIMUN) Conference. As the delegate for the country, I was part of the Disarmament and International Security Committee. My role involved researching and discussing the topic of safeguarding critical infrastructure against threats from cyberspace with fellow delegates, in the scenario we had to find a collective solution that married with the theme of ‘Peace and Security’. Recognising the need for international collaboration in finding solutions for global problems made me reminisce about my dear friend, Miguel Panduwinata, whose life was lost in the downing of flight MH17 in 2014. I thought about the book, ‘Bellingcat’ which discusses how the global intelligence network uses open-source data to carry out international investigations. The book gave me solace as it simplified what happened based on the evidence, having access to publicly available data allowed Bellingcat to investigate and reveal the truth about what happened after seven years. I thought about this during my LIMUN experience and contrary to nationalising cyberspace, the resolution I proposed to reinstitute peace argued that cyberspace intelligence should be transparent and shared between countries. The cyber world is interconnected because it is not an individual entity, but one that could collectively empower countries through interdependence and developing stronger international ties, thus reinstating peace, and understanding.

During my gap-year I co-founded a thrift shop called Velvet Youth Club (VYC) and started a project on how to distribute food waste through an app. I learned how to collaborate and communicate with charitable organisations to support cancer survivors, animal shelters, and COVID-19 frontlines.

Through the holistic insights, depth of knowledge, and research skills I will gain during my undergraduate study, I hope to continue my good work in preparation for becoming an advocate of change in restoring political sacredness.