

Farouk Marhaba
16 October 2020

KP Engineering Fellow Intern Application (Summer 2021)
Personal Statement #1

I define impact by the ability to create opportunities; I don't believe we live in a net-zero world, where someone's benefit comes at the expense of another's. To have this impact on the world, I want to develop sustainable services that make the world more connected, whether that means reinventing transportation in low-infrastructure environments or developing technologies that provide the 4 billion offline individuals around the globe with viable internet access. When the world is more connected, people have access to opportunities otherwise unknown and unattainable due to uncontrollable circumstances. My personal success will be measured by the success of the individuals and organizations using my services. This includes rural vendors increasing sales by using our updated last-mile logistics services in low mail-infrastructure locations (like Lebanon, where I'm from) or children improving their learning styles around the globe by employing our novel virtual learning tools. Regardless of the specific service, the impact I have on the world is going to be sustainable, where the use of our service fundamentally changes the way people operate. Duolingo is a perfect KP example of this, where a "freemium" service helps over 300 million people globally develop functional language skills that can have a ripple effect on other aspects of users' lives. I am inspired by organizations like these; however, if I've learned one thing from them, it's this: I ought not to make the next Duolingo or Uber, but rather create new spaces that serve as foundations for a more equitable future.