

Resume: Isha Dutta, Grade 12, AISJ

I have lived in India and South Africa during my high school years and it has been educative as well as exhilarating. I believe this has given me significant adaptability skills while enhancing my accountability towards my duties as a student and a member of the youth, and my passion for living my life!

Synopsis of key interests and achievements:

- In Mumbai, India:
 - Active participant in school activities like choir and music.
 - Senior editor of the school magazine
 - Participant in raising Civic awareness and Environmental sensitivities
 - Nature lover and trekker; have trekked to Kedarkantha to a height of 12500 ft.
 - Won Governor's gold medal for securing 90%+ marks in every subject in the ICSE Grade 10 exams.
 - Created a program for a travel agency using BlueJ for a class program.
- In Johannesburg, South Africa:
 - Was selected and participated in the Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC) in Europe
 - Take part in the Riversands tutoring program and teach Mathematics, social studies and English.
 - Member of 'Free the Children'; raising funds to build a school in Sierra Leone
 - Member of the yearbook club (junior year)
 - Created a website for a cultural organisation using html format and css. Adobe Dreamweaver was used for this.

Detailed Resume:

My high school years have been divided, as I spent the first two years in Mumbai, India and am spending my Junior and Senior years in Johannesburg.

In India, I actively participated in different school activities. In both grades 9 and 10, I was part of the group that represented our school in an inter-school meet known as the Odyssey. It consisted of a variety of activities which tested talents including journalism, photography, elocution competitions, debates and musical capabilities. The first year, I represented my school in Rhythms, a musical competition, as a part of a band as a singer. The next year, I acted as a journalist, and my team members and I created a news paper. Our school won Odyssey overall during the first year, and we won our event the next, although we were not the overall champions.

In Grade 10, I was also senior editor of the school magazine, and my colleagues and I added many new features to the magazine, including student and teacher interviews. I had published articles and poems in the school magazine as well. I am especially interested in creative writing and poetry.

I am also interested in music and had been a part of the school choir, for the Senior Annual Concert, which was the musical 'Fiddler on the roof'. I sang a solo song for this occasion.

Created with

As a person who is environmentally conscious, I was part of CMCA (Children's Movement for Civic Awareness) and won an Inter school competition. I have gone on many silent protests, some of which include the 'Say NO to Plastic' and 'Prevent Global Warming, Say No to Fire Crackers' rallies.

I have multiple hobbies that I have pursued at various stages. I am a nature lover, and enjoy activities like trekking, rock climbing and white water rafting. My biggest achievement has been trekking to Kedarkantha in the Himalayas to a height of 12500 ft.

I also used to skate regularly in India for over 8 years (competitive racing).

In grade 10, I appeared for the nation-wide examinations for ICSE, and secured a raw score of 94.4%. I also received a school honour known as the Governor's Gold Medal, which is rewarded to students who secure a raw score of above 90% in all of their examinations. I also received a subject prize in English for securing the highest score in English in our year.

After Grade 10, I moved to Johannesburg in South Africa. Johannesburg was a completely new city, and I was exposed to an entirely new culture, and experience. The move required me to adjust to a new place, a new school, a different curriculum and a new set of friends.

However, apart from adapting to the new curriculum, I was soon actively involved in the activities of my new school, the American International School of Johannesburg.

I take part in the Riversands Tutoring Program, where I, along with some of my classmates, visit a public school once every week to teach the students, and help them with their homework and assignments. I am the student leader of this activity, and help ensure the smooth running of the activity. The school often struggles to get full-time teachers and the students are from families that can often not afford better educational facilities for their children. In teaching them Mathematics, I believe I have been able to encourage them to learn elements of logic and reasoning in general, and hopefully help cultivate some love for Mathematics as a subject.

I also joined the yearbook club in this school, in order to continue my former Editorial experience in Junior year.

I am also part of a club known as 'Free the Children,' where my classmates and I plan and organise activities to raise funds to build a school in a village in Sierra Leone. I have recently been appointed the scribe and secretary of this school club.

I have started playing squash regularly upon my relocation to Johannesburg. I started playing squash as a means to keeping myself fit; and as time went by, I have really started enjoying the sport, though I have a long way to go before I am competent at it. I also enjoy amateur photography and South Africa has proven to be an excellent resource of flora and fauna!

Finally, I was selected for the Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC) which I attended in Europe. The conference entailed attending meetings, lectures and seminars in the cities of Vienna, Prague and Budapest. It is a unique leadership development program that brings together young people from around the world to build critical leadership skills in a global context. It offered us the opportunity to learn from and exchange ideas with some of the world's top business leaders, policy officials, lobbyists, journalists, diplomats and academics.

It gave us a greater understanding of our roles as global ambassadors while analyzing concepts

surrounding communications, diplomacy, law, human rights, peace, security, economics and the role of the United Nations. I believe I returned home from GYLC with a greater understanding of my roles and responsibilities as a future member of the international community.

The sessions were designed to educate, inspire and motivate students by giving them the opportunity to explore cultural differences firsthand, absorb diplomatic skills daily, build confidence and enhance decision-making skills in an exciting atmosphere that is challenging and fun.

It also allowed me to take in the culture and heritage of three premier cities of the world with histories that shaped modern day Europe. I also visited the Terezin concentration camp of the Nazis which allowed me to see firsthand the atrocities that man can commit against fellow humans.

The conference helped me gain confidence, as it was the first time I travelled alone internationally. Meeting and socialising with fellow students from around the world over a 10 day period helped me understand cultural diversity and enhanced my ability to adapt to them.

Special interests:

Civic awareness programs interest me, as I believe that helping others is an important step in learning how to help your country. Trying our best to help the less fortunate live better lives is especially important in any developing nation like India or South Africa, where poverty and hunger are two menaces that are still widespread. Taking part in civic service activities will help me learn new ways in which I can be of help to the ones around me, and hopefully, help some live a better life. I also understand the importance of environmental preservation, and the need for us to start taking action now to preserve our earth, which grows frailer by the day. We, as a part of the future generation, have the greatest responsibility towards our world, as, only if we help to preserve it today, will it help us fulfil our needs tomorrow. Also, learning about our environment is as important as learning about the laws of physics or how to calculate compound interest, and plays an important role in moulding our personalities.