

## **Undergraduate – International Relations – Nottingham**

Growing up in a politically unstable, economically disadvantaged, yet culturally rich country, combined with my passion for the cultural and political spheres of the world, has inspired me to pursue an International Relations (IR) degree.

Diversity is rooted in my surroundings: Brazil, the country I grew up in, has a myriad of religions, ethnicities, and cultures; my family comes from [REDACTED] and I attended high school on a full scholarship, which allowed me to interact with a different social class to mine. As such, I've been exposed to a contrast of accents, customs and most importantly, political opinions. This entrenched diversity has shaped me to be hyper-aware of the world around me and the people that inhabit it.

Although the diversity in my upbringing sparked my fascination with IR, my interest deepened during my high school years, which were amidst a global pandemic. Studying in such an environment highlighted how fragile our current economic and political systems are. This was especially true in Brazil where our president did not impose any federal laws and was actively against the vaccine. I observed how IR was largely responsible in allowing countries to collaborate to expedite vaccine distribution, increase testing availability, and conduct life-saving research.

Participating in sociology debates deepened my interest in IR as I often had to argue from perspectives I did not necessarily agree with. This experience not only taught me to appreciate the complexity of issues like the death penalty, abortion rights, and religious bias, but further instilled upon me the desire to engage with pressing global issues like threats to democratic systems, the erosion of human rights, or the revocation of women's rights. These challenges are often solved by a select group of people. Through empathy, perspective and a willingness to understand a different viewpoint, I aspire to be among those who contribute positively to society.

“Why Nations Fail” by D. Acemoglu and J.A. Robinson sparked my interest in Economics. The book argues that the key to understanding economic disparities between nations depends on their institutions, and that concentrating power and wealth among a small elite leads to stagnation and poverty. To delve deeper into my interest in economics, in 2021 I interned at [REDACTED], a real estate firm, where I practiced foundational economics concepts such as allocation of resources, cost analysis and competitor scrutiny. This growing passion for economics was the reason I enrolled in an Economics degree at [REDACTED]

Whilst studying modules like Microeconomics, International Political Economies, and Social Economics, I realised how intricately the economic and political worlds intertwine with IR. Although I am thoroughly enjoying the degree, I long for a broader and more interdisciplinary course that will allow me to deep dive into public ethics, migration policies, international cooperation and many related subjects.

Besides economics, I am also deeply interested in language and communication. Learning languages is not only fascinating but also a valuable skill, enabling humans to understand each other verbally and culturally. I see this in the languages I speak - English and Portuguese - and in those I am learning - French, Polish, and Korean. Interpersonal relationships are built on languages, including body language, and effective communication is key to succeeding in an IR career. My passion for economics combined with my inherent interest in languages aligns with what IR encompasses and makes me eager to delve deeper into these subjects.

I am excited about the opportunity to deepen my knowledge and develop practical skills that will enable me to make a positive impact in the world. A course in IR, in such a richly diverse country, where cultural and political variety is the norm, will allow me to pursue that goal.