

RAHEL IMRU: Class of 2021

Suncoast Community High School

Harvard College: major in Bioengineering, minor in Global Health and Health Policy



What can you tell us about your freshman year that may also inform the scholars who might follow in your college path?

My freshman year was one of the most challenging yet rewarding years of my life. College will push you academically and socially in a very new space which will enable you to learn a lot about yourself and grow from what you learn. In my freshman year experience, I have surpassed my expectations for myself when it comes to balancing school and extracurricular activities in a place where everything demands so much more energy and attention than as it did in high school. I took a proof-based math course which was the hardest course I have ever taken. I learned about cutting-edge treatments in the biotechnology field – something I am passionate about. I even got to travel to Nicaragua during Winter Break to assist medically in some of the rural communities there. I think the biggest takeaway is that you should really make an effort to utilize the relevant resources you are offered in college, especially in your first year, because this is a vital year in developing your academic and career goals. But, always make time for yourself and your creative side through clubs or sports (I joined the dance team and multiple Black student groups) because school can get hectic and overwhelming at times, and it is so important to have an enjoyable outlet.

What are you doing this summer?

This summer, I am spending two months in South Africa as an intern at the Lebone II College of the Royal Bafokeng Nation. I currently am teaching some of the 12th grade classes here and I live at the school, so I am also a mentor/tutor to the students. Earlier in the internship I helped in planning and facilitating the annual Lebone Leadership Festival for students all across the world to attend.

What are your thoughts for the immediate and longer-term future?

In terms of academics, I am studying for an B.S. in bioengineering and a secondary (aka “minor”) in Global Health and Health Policy, and I am also working to get a language citation in Spanish and/or Amharic. I am still on a pre-med track and I have also gotten a better feel for what I want to do after college – I am currently planning on joining an MD/MBA program; I’m not sure where yet. In my long-

term future, I would like to go into something like Doctors without Borders, and hopefully open clinics in Africa to aid in closing the medical access gaps across the continent.