

FATIMA NANA VATI



My name is Fatima Nanavati and I am a proud Canadian who grew up just outside of Toronto, Ontario after immigrating from Mumbai, India at a very young age. While I was always involved in my Canadian community, I also embraced my vibrant cultural background by regularly visiting India, participating in traditional celebrations, and keeping up with my proficiencies in Hindi and Urdu.

My interest in the field of international relations first began through my parent's long history of philanthropic work. Getting involved in volunteering, fundraising, and advocacy at a young age taught me key values of reciprocity and humanitarianism, which strengthened my desire to give back to the community on a larger scale. Later on in high school when I was excelling at national debate, I realized my true passion towards politics, policy, and international affairs.

I attended New York University and enjoyed a very unique undergraduate experience. Along with experiencing the bustling lifestyle of living in Manhattan, I also had the opportunity to study abroad in Paris for my first year and Shanghai for my third year of school. These travels helped to expand my international knowledge and also pushed me to learn French and Mandarin. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts double majoring in Politics and Global Liberal Studies, as well as a double minoring in Policy Management and Poverty Studies.

Academically, my recent focus has been in areas of international development, conflict management, and women's empowerment. These interests helped me tremendously as I worked for the NATO Association, the United Nations, and the Embassy of Canada over the past few years. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy photography, filmography, writing for the school paper, and professional dance.

SAIS Europe was the perfect way to start out my postgraduate education because it not only gave me a close knit family for constant motivation, but also provided an incredible location abroad to expand my international awareness. The SAIS community is by far the most supportive, constructive, and intelligent group of people to be around. Without the continued support of my peers and professors, I would not have been able to excel in the way I have today.

I will be completing my studies at SAIS Washington to earn a Master of Arts in International Relations and Economics in 2017. I am confident that my concentrations in Conflict Management and International Political Economy will help in achieving my most immediate career goals. After graduation, I hope to pursue work in risk analysis, conflict mediation, and policy reform.