



BROOKE O'TOOLE

Year 47/2022, Canada-BC
Student Profile

Brooke O'Toole is a first-year Canadian student at Pearson College UWC, joining us from the small Vancouver Island town of Black Creek. From the time she learned of the UWC movement, she has been working toward achieving her own UWC dream. An ambitious and talented student, Brooke's teachers at home were lining up to offer their recommendations for her to have the opportunity to attend this program. They called her a 'gifted leader,' and commented repeatedly on her positivity, intelligence, work ethic, talent, engagement, and sunny personality.

Q&A With Brooke:

Do you have a favourite academic course at Pearson so far?

I would say my favourite course is Marine Science. Our teacher Laura is super passionate about the subject, and her enthusiasm makes me even more excited to learn about the marine ecosystem right here in Pedder Bay. From plankton towing to observing the sea water table, talks about bioluminescence to migration patterns, it is definitely one of the most fascinating classes I've ever taken part in.

What co-curricular activities are you involved in this year?

I am involved in three student-led clubs at the moment: I lead Improv, and I also participate in Songwriting and Languages AB. Each club has been really fun and informative; in Songwriting, we're learning how to compose music digitally, and in Languages AB, one of the student leaders is helping me to learn Arabic. For Improv, I have been helping students develop their ability to hold a presence on stage, as well as to think quickly under pressure.

In my faculty-led activity of KULE (a non-profit organization that partners with rural community groups in Kenya to support projects like building primary schools, supporting orphanage operations, and working with at risk children and seniors), we have been participating in discussions and exercises aimed at dismantling the idea of 'white saviourism' and confronting our own biases. My friend Maïna and I are helping to lead the fundraising team for this activity – recently we organized a donation-based movie night for the rest of the on-campus students.

What inspired you to apply to UWC?

I was inspired to apply because I wanted to make a change in the world. I didn't know how I would achieve it, but I knew if I pushed myself to step out of my comfort zone and challenge myself with experiences like these, I'd find my path. Even in the first couple of months at Pearson, my whole view on the world has been challenged, shifted and turned on its head. I hope that as the next two years unfold, I can continue to challenge my perspectives, learn and ultimately grow as a well-rounded individual.