

ALMA HUUSKONEN BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Alma Huuskonen, 2nd Year Student/Year 43

My Name is Alma and I'm from Cortes Island, BC. I decided to come to Pearson College UWC because I wanted to be in a place that would excite me, engage me, teach me new things, and expand my horizons.

Life at Pearson is very busy! I take philosophy, physics, biology, math, English, and French. I am the leader of the Pearson College Emergency Response Team (PCERT). I work closely with the school nurse, helping organize lessons, drills, and training weeks. I have taken on a variety of logistics-oriented tasks, such as reforming our fire and earthquake response procedures, or coming up with new ways to schedule responders-on-call. I have also learned a considerable amount of first aid – I will leave with not only my first responder certification, but also my advanced wilderness and mental health first aid. I also help teach emergency first aid and CPR skills to first-year students at my school, to promote a safer and more competent student body.

I am also leading the pottery activity, where I teach students how to work with clay, and most of the pieces we create are sold to raise funds for the school. I am the co-chair of the World University Services Canada committee on campus, working to support and welcome incoming refugee students to our campus. I am also involved in my school's LGBTQ+ support group, and have helped with the organization and implementation of school-wide educational and anti-discrimination programs. As an extra creative outlet, I also sing in the school choir.

I was surprised at how challenging I found it to be at Pearson College for the first while. I was homeschooled in a small community before I came here, so it took some time to adjust to being

surrounded by so many people my age, as well as adjusting to a standardized educational system. Although Pearson can still be overwhelming from time to time, I've learned a lot about myself in terms of what my limits are, so I'm able to structure my life in a way that works for me. For example, I now know how long I am able to be in a group of people, how much noise I can handle before it overwhelms me and how many things I can commit to at once.

As far as future goals go, I aspire to attend medical school to become a general practitioner, and go into emergency medicine/disaster relief with Red Cross or MSF. I want to do something with my life that incorporates my passion for biology and physiology with my goal to have a direct, positive impact on the lives of others, so medicine is the right path for me.

Thank you so much for contributing to my Pearson College scholarship. This place is giving me so many opportunities to make connections and learn things that I wouldn't have been able to learn, had I stayed in my home community. It is an incredibly valuable experience. Attending Pearson has been a dream of mine since I was six years old, and I wouldn't have been able to attend without your support. I am endlessly grateful.