

NEWSLETTER

Luna Arunday Kirana has raised her head so very high that the sky is no longer the limit to her. She has attained French Delf Examination level B1. In her IGCSE examinations, 2023 June series, she scored 99 points out of the possible 100 in Sociology. That was not enough, this academic giant garnered 6A* in other subjects for the same series! Luna is an all round person whose leadership skills have been tested when she took up the Academic governor position in the student council leadership. Additionally, she volunteered with the United Nations Youth Association(UNYA), Kenya and during the World Scholar's Cup she was the top lead among the volunteers. Presently, she is doing her A level studies at Light International school. She is an active member of the journalism club and very instrumental in the video editing for the social media handles. She is not left behind in the Model United Nations(MUN) where she has taken key interest in the conferences and the global concerns.



Luna is truly an icon!

Luna Arunday

BACK TO MY ROOTS

At the back of my mind as I pen down this publication, I am heartily appreciative of the United Nations Youth Association, Kenya (UNYA) for creating an avenue to access this opportunity. Thank you very much UNYA, Kenya.

Imagine being an emigrant at such a young age. Leaving behind your culture, your family and most importantly your language. All for what? All to learn an entirely new one, English. Well that's me, Luna Arunday. But how did I fix that?

I made it a goal to give back my English skills to my home land community. The year was 2022 when I took up a challenge to volunteer at some local Government schools in Indonesia, teaching secondary school English.



To continue pursuing these ventures, in the year 2023 July I decided to take a step further offering my skills to more schools.. The lessons involved highly interactive learning in the form of fun games that made use of speaking, writing, and listening skills. These were all pre-planned and suited to the needs of each student.

The first school I set out to was M.A.N 2 in Jombang, an Islamic high school. After learning that the school offers language courses, I could not hold back my excitement and was looking forward to offering my services. I interacted with the 12th grade language class. During this time, I spoke both English and Bahasa Indonesia. Accompanied by a little bit of French to spice things up. All while conducting these fun games, such as 'Spot the difference', and their favourite one 'Spelling'.



I also got an opportunity to meet with their junior counterparts in 11th grade language class, doing similar activities. I cannot forget the memorable experiences I had interacting with far more social and active girls. They truly made this volunteer exercise a special one for me. Their uproar of excitement throughout the class was what kept the fire burning and giving me the zeal of wanting to do more!

After serving for a week, I travelled to a different school in Jember. Through connections from the previous year, I went back to where it all began: SMAN 4 Jember. There was a new bundle of personalities, and lots more renewed games from the past experience. Being able to reconnect with friends from the previous year was a cherishable experience and I will never forget the new memories I made with them and the new freshmen.



In class and with the help of their observant teacher of English, I was able to get even the shyest students to start speaking English while their highly supportive classmates tuned in to create a positive learning environment. The entire plan was not just about the games, but also to help these students become more confident to speak English.

I encouraged the students to join and actively participate in the English club activities. Back in Jombang, I visited the high school my Dad graduated from back in his days: SMAN 2 Jombang – popularly known as one of the Top 5 high schools in East Java, Indonesia, for its character building programs and high achieving students in both the academic field and co curricular activities. It was such a privilege.



I interacted with members of the English club – a large group of students that possess immense passion for learning English. Communicating with these students was smooth. They showed their constant curiosity and good mastery of the language. While still being able to have fun in the games 'Charades' and many others.

In my work experience there, I took time to learn how the National level debaters in English and Islamic Religion are organized and implemented.

As an active debater myself, it was amazing to learn how debates in Indonesia are run and the different topics discussed. I couldn't help but feel proud.



I became more knowledgeable with respect to Indonesian academic culture, Indonesian teenagers' social life, school life, and a range of cultural beliefs too.



It was 3 weeks that made me a better person. And I came out of Indonesia wanting to go back and teach more. I always believed without a seed of a doubt that giving back to the community is crucial, and especially a community you have 'roots' in gives you satisfaction, fulfillment & the urge of wanting to do it over and over again.

WHAT IT TAKES TO WORK IN AN EMBASSY

EMBASSY : **INDONESIAN EMBASSY**

INTERNSHIP PERIOD : **12 JUNE 2023 - 23 JUNE 2023**

Are there any opportunities for interns to attend diplomatic events or represent the Embassy at conferences & meetings?

Thankfully, yes! The previous interns let me know that during their three month internship, they were able to attend several United Nations assemblies alongside the Indonesian Embassy representatives. They assisted in organising the events, writing reports on them, and overall gained a vivid picture of real UN conferences first hand! They said it was an unforgettable experience and although I interned during the time where there were no conferences, I believe being able to attend such a significant diplomatic event is thrilling for a mind interested in international relations. Aside from being fun, it is also a skillful learning experience.

What was your role as an intern at the Embassy of Indonesia?

As a passionate Journalism club member, my role at the Embassy fit perfectly with the skills loved: Writing, videography and editing.

During my internship, I was able to display my talent and creativity in videography by making quick-moving videos on the Embassy's Instagram Reels.

Coupled with that, I was tasked with the role of photographing every event that happened during my two weeks and gleefully edited them using my favourite software in order to post them on the Embassy's Instagram. This truly brought out the creative side of me and I am so glad to be able to showcase these amazingly nurtured skills!

Each week, I also had to write a weekly report from local news. In addition to that, I also responded occasionally to the emails of the Embassy. Although it was in Indonesian, I had to try my best. I was up for the challenge!

Occasionally, I was also assigned some errands to run during events. This chance allowed me to interact with the local community while displaying my integrity. It was a great experience to socialise with others.



What are some of the key challenges you've encountered during your internship? And how did you overcome them?

I hate to admit it, but being out of Indonesia for over ten years has lowered the quality of my Indonesian language. During my internship, I had to conduct everything I do and say in the Indonesian language – which was the biggest challenge for me. I particularly found it difficult to comprehend certain complicated concepts that my various supervisors were teaching me.

However, they understood my slight language barrier and helped me by translating in English at times when their language became too complex.

In the same fashion, typing in the Indonesian language was troublesome, as I lacked the formal and written knowledge that I know in English. With the help of my intern friends, I was able to push through. Overcoming this challenge with the help of my new found friends and supervisors gave me an ultimate sense of achievement. I felt not only more knowledgeable, but also increasingly proud of myself with each and every

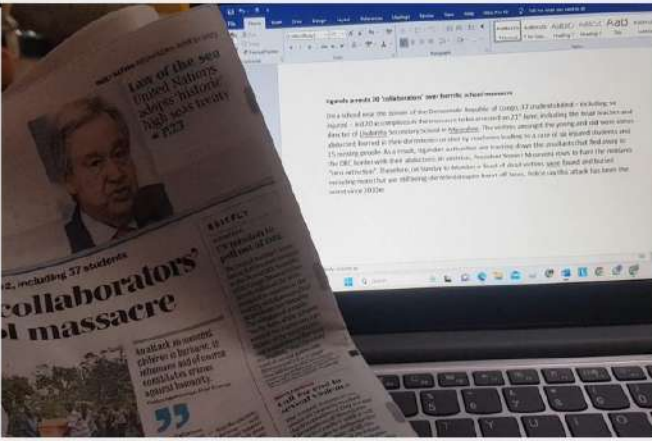


Are there any language requirements for interns at the Embassy? Will there be opportunities to improve my language skills?

As mentioned above, knowing and being fluent in the Indonesian language is significant. From writing emails, writing articles, communicating with staff, understanding key concepts, everything is done in Indonesian! Without it, I believe you will be left behind.

At the same time, interning here has provided me with the thrilling opportunity to improve my Indonesian language. As I worked with other staff, they helped boost my confidence in speaking the language. More importantly, they taught me how to use it in formal settings, writings, and also encouraged me to step out of my zone and be the true Indonesian that I am!

In understanding, I believe this was the perfect way to improve my cultural relations with other Indonesians. As well as feel more connected to my home ground. It really brought out the cultural aspect of me, that our school strongly instills.



Can you share with us your understanding on the different functions of the Embassy?

Of course! I'm glad to tell you all that I have learnt - which by the way, is a lot! To make it simpler, the Embassy has four functions: Political, Economical, Social and Cultural, and Citizen Protectionship. Their functions are just as the name suggests, the Embassy takes care of the political, economical, social and cultural, and security affairs of all Indonesian citizens that live in Kenya, Uganda, DR Congo and Somalia. For example, they often address their economical concerns, let's say during a recession, in order to protect fellow Indonesians from being impacted by its harm. This is mainly done during United Nations Assemblies or conferences. And these concerns are brought out by their respective diplomats and the Ambassador.

In my opinion, I think this was an interesting insight and new knowledge to me. If it wasn't for this internship, I would never have been so curious about this! Aside from the growing respect I have for the diplomats and Ambassador, I gained a sense of empathy and understanding for the responsibilities these respective people have in ensuring Indonesians like me are living the life we have now abroad.

Can you provide insights on the work environment and team dynamics at the embassy?

I am delighted to say that the work environment within the embassy is nothing short of supportive, exciting, and full of respect. During my two weeks here, I was surprised to see that all the staff members were very understanding and great teachers to me as I managed to learn. Not only that, but they were really respectful and easy-going, in such a way that made me feel accepted and included in the community as one of them.

Between each other, I felt a sense of rapport. I felt included. It felt like home. I felt cared for. Aside from just learning and working, it was truly amazing to work alongside genuinely nice people and have a two-way mutual respect for one another - a value LIS has taught me to grow into.

What advice would you give to future interns who are interested in working at Embassies?

I believe that interning at any Embassy is a great workplace to anyone interested in becoming a diplomat in either of the four aspects - including international relations and crisis related affairs.

My advice to you would be to ensure you are punctual and responsible. In addition to that, I advise you to always remain respectful to the people around you.

Moreover, I urge you, while you are there, to grasp as much knowledge as you can about the procedures or information, they will teach you and get to know yourself better (career wise, to understand whether or not international relations would be a suitable career path for you!)

MOMBASA ROUND 2023



The View From the Other Side

For the sixth year in a row now, I have never once broken my streak of taking part in the World Scholars Cup. But this was the 2023 Mombasa year. This year will be different.

Instead of competing, why don't I volunteer? Take a look at things from the other side?

From the nerve wrecking debates, brain nagging essays, and teeth biting quizzes, it's all time to see how it's like to be the one handing out the papers, the ones allocating debaters to their rooms, the ones aiding in fixing the clickers. So a few months ago, I took up the role of being a volunteer for this year's Mombasa Round.

As part of this role, my job was simple: to give out alpacas. No, I'm kidding. Well that was ONE bit.

Behind the scenes, it's chaos. Having to organize all the swarms of students, organizing their seats, answering the billion burning questions of confused children, frantically giving out pencils and sheets of quizzes, ensuring no one's cheating (although someone always does) and much more. The role is far detailed and most of it just includes making sure the event runs smoothly and all the scholars, while the hosts are busy, are catered for. Including their material needs for the various activities, and their comfort.

While that may seem tedious on paper, when I actually did it, it felt rather fulfilling. Through this experience I was able to be better at following instructions.



With the constant instructions from the hosts, it was vital to make sure I was not only quick thinking, but also problem solving. Having to fulfill all the needs of the scholars within an immediate time frame. And also finding a way to fix things when a solution is not directly at hand. I had to be organized and make sure that everything got done before havoc broke out. Running here, running there, solving issues, and correcting mistakes was an almost every hour thing. But primarily, I was able to fulfill each of my roles with minimal failure. As the second day rolled around, my legs and brain were practically as quick as flash.

The View From the Other Side cont...

Furthermore, I learned the value of collaboration and connection. For this role, it was important to ensure the connection between the hosts and all the volunteers were bridged together. Updating everyone about the current task to fulfill and the immediate instructions given especially when everyone was everywhere. Building a stronger bond with my teammates enabled me to improve my communication skills with them, and the ability to give and receive instructions myself when the team needed to aid one another. All for the purpose of working together and helping us all work it out.

What's more is that I was able to build a one-to-one rapport with nervous scholars. Whether it was their first time or not, their faces spoke to me even without words. I made it a personal goal to provide reassurance to everyone that genuinely needed help with their tasks. Including their anxiety and nervousness during the debates and quizzes. By empathizing with how they feel, having been in their position myself, it was of utmost priority to me to make them feel better through simple encouragement. If I didn't, then who would? I know just the words to tell them.

Lastly, I had a whole two-day worth of fun. In WSC, it's not just about the skills you possess in the various activities, but also about the joy it brings. The colorful alpacas, the uplifting spirits, the enthusiastic smiles. All of them play a role in ensuring everyone has fun. As for myself, the adrenaline rush kept me going from here to there for two days.

Now, I am experienced on both sides of the story. Being a scholar, and being the helper. It's hard to decide which is more difficult but I like both of them just as equally. Next year, who knows what I'll take part in? Your guess is right!

If I didn't, then who would? I know just the words to tell them.

