

The Commonwealth Women's Mentorship Scheme

Over these past few months, I have had the opportunity to learn from a phenomenal woman whose enthusiasm ignited my passion for international policy. We embarked on this mentorship journey together and as I approach the end, I can confidently say that I have gained a friend and confidante.

When I began this program, I had many academic interests and I struggled to find a focus. I created a mind-map on my white board and every day I reflected on all my ideas with the hope of finding one that would speak to my soul. For what its worth, none spoke to my soul, and my map is almost the same as when I began. My inability to identify a particular focus may seem like a failure, but for me, it was a great success.

My mentor has taught me the value of uncertainty. In a world where we have been socialised to have a particular focus or “stick to one thing”, I have found joy in embracing a plethora of ideas and concepts, all of which are fundamentally interconnected in my world. I spent most of my time trying to identify my areas of interest that I forgot to reflect on the processes I used to create distinctions. It was my mentor who challenged me to find value in the journey/process – a skill that I will forever cherish. When I began to embrace the process, I became more open to new ideas and new ways of seeing the world.

I have learned that university is simply the beginning of a much larger network of knowledge and ideas. The learning within such an academic space may not fully prepare me for a career. Therefore, it is important to acquire skills from all facets of life in the hope of gaining experience inside and outside the classroom.