



MERCY COLLEGE ALUMNAE

Where are they now?

Introducing
Rhea Soans,
Class of 2022

Thanks for sharing
your story!



What is your most memorable experience as a Mercy student?

One of my most memorable experiences as a Mercy student was being involved in the music school. When I was younger, I was quite shy, but as I grew older and discovered a deep passion for music, I knew I had to step outside my comfort zone. Joining the music program not only helped me build confidence but also gave me a sense of community and belonging. It played a huge role in my personal growth and helped shape me into who I am today.

Another standout experience was being part of the student leadership team as Mission Captain. That role gave me the opportunity to live out Mercy values in a hands-on way, from organizing initiatives to supporting causes that mattered to our school community. It taught me a lot about responsibility, service, and leading with purpose. Both music and leadership gave me a deeper connection to the Mercy spirit and left a lasting impact on me.

Have you maintained school friendships?

School friendships can be challenging to maintain, especially after graduation when life takes everyone in different directions. But I've learned that the people who are truly meant to be in your life will always find a way to stay. Even now, living abroad, I still feel the support of the friends I made at Mercy. Knowing I have people back home who have my back - no matter the distance - is something I'm incredibly grateful for. The bonds we formed at school have stood the test of time and distance, and I know those friendships will last a lifetime.

What are you doing now?

I graduated from Mercy in 2022, and I'm currently studying medicine in the Czech Republic. It's been a challenging but incredibly rewarding experience so far. Studying abroad has pushed me out of my comfort zone, but the drive to work hard and stay focused on my goals was something Mercy instilled in me early on. The values and



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discipline I developed during my time there continue to guide me every step of the way as I pursue my dream of becoming a doctor.

What message would you share with current students?

You can do anything you put your mind to - don't let anything hold you back. It might not always be easy, and there will definitely be challenges along the way, but if you stay focused, work hard, and believe in yourself, you'll be amazed at what you can achieve. Don't be afraid to take risks or step outside your comfort zone, that's where real growth happens. Looking back, the times I pushed myself the most are the ones that made all the difference. Whatever your goals are, start working toward them now - you're more capable than you think.

Did you set out with a career plan?

I always knew I wanted to work in healthcare - there was something about medicine that really called to me. My original plan was to stay in Melbourne, complete a Bachelor of Biomedicine, and then go on to study medicine postgraduate. But life had other plans. At some point, I asked myself, "If I know I want to study medicine, why am I waiting?"

After a year of studying biomed at La Trobe, I started looking for opportunities outside of Australia. That mindset - being open to change and ready to take a leap - ultimately brought me to Prague, where I'm now studying medicine. It wasn't the path I originally imagined, but it's one I'm incredibly grateful for.

Where has your career path taken you?

After graduating, I wanted to start working in healthcare as soon as possible, so I completed my certification in disability support work. It was during that time I realized even more clearly that becoming a doctor was my true goal. After working for a year, I decided to take the leap and sit medical school entrance exams abroad. This decision led me to move to the Czech Republic to pursue medicine.

Leaving behind everything I knew and moving to a new country all by myself was incredibly challenging. Adjusting to a new culture, language, and academic system pushed me far outside my comfort zone. But despite the difficulties, the experience has been incredibly rewarding. Over the past year, I've grown so much - not just academically, but personally. I've learned resilience, independence, and gained a deeper appreciation for the opportunities I have. It hasn't been easy, but it's been one of the most valuable journeys of my life.

I strongly encourage anyone considering studying abroad to take the leap. Stepping outside your comfort zone challenges you in ways that foster incredible personal growth. The experience will push your limits, broaden your perspective, and ultimately help you become a stronger, more confident version of yourself.

Thank you, Rhea, for sharing your insightful reflection with the Mercy College Community.