



“The IB Diploma Programme did not just emphasize knowing, but how to know and how to learn. It made me realize that I cannot learn everything, but I can learn how to keep pursuing knowledge and follow what I am passionate about.”

Emmanuel Mensah

2005 IB Diploma Programme graduate
Lester B. Pearson United World College
of the Pacific
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

A 2005 IB Diploma Programme graduate who earned a bachelor of arts in biology and mathematics, cum laude, from Dartmouth College in 2009, Emmanuel Mensah is now in the process of obtaining a master of business administration and a doctor of medicine—simultaneously—
at Harvard University.

Although Emmanuel always knew he wanted to study medicine, he embarked on a double major in biology and mathematics in university after taking IB mathematics courses that revealed his enthusiasm for the subject.

“I love the fact that there were options for us, at such a young age, to explore how far we hope to go in any field,” he says. Today, as he studies for his MBA and MD, Emmanuel aims to become involved in computational biology to help bridge his interests in business, medicine and mathematics.

A string of honors attest to his diverse accomplishments: Dickerson Prize for writing; W.E.B. DuBois Academic Award; Ranny B. Cardozo Prize for academic enthusiasm and genuine concern for the community; The Grace and James S. Parkes 1920 Prize for exemplifying kindness, good fellowship and respect; Davis 100 Projects for Peace Fellowship; and National Palmer Award for dedication to service and bringing a vision into action—to name a few.

Such accolades merely scratch the surface of Emmanuel’s myriad capabilities. As he notes, “The most amazing aspect of the IB Diploma Programme was that its requirements went beyond the scope of the classroom”—and so do his pursuits. He has worked as a financial analyst, a laboratory research assistant, a media technician and a researcher on international governance. He has produced videos of flora and

fauna on Racerocks Island, played marimbas with the Dartmouth College World Percussion Ensemble, and performed the South African Gumbo Dance with the Dartmouth Roots of Rhythm. Emmanuel also speaks French, Italian, English and Twi, his native language.

The IB also set Emmanuel on a path as a cultural ambassador with what he calls an “amazing” creativity, action, service CAS project in which he visited elementary and middle schools to share his culture with the students. He continued this mission at university, where he mentored international students and facilitated a diversity peer programme. “My main goal was to create a campus of inclusivity where everyone felt comfortable,” he says.

Emmanuel’s cultural outreach also showed him the potential of youth to contribute to development in his own country, spurring him to found the Ghana Youth Leadership Alliance. The alliance is curbing the mass exodus of intellectuals from Ghana and fostering networking, leadership and service among 5,000 youth members. For Emmanuel, that’s just the beginning.

“My IB experience opened my mind to think on a global scale. I no longer see myself working in a small community as a physician, but rather as a global pacesetter in fighting for access to health care for those who do not have it or cannot afford it.”



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