

My name is Jaqueline Assunção. I am from Itaitinga, a small town in northeastern Brazil. My parents are illiterate and they've been farm workers for their whole lives, which meant my family went through all kinds of financial hardships while my four sisters and I were growing up. Despite all the hardships, my family, and especially my mother, always encouraged me to pursue an education. I've always liked to read and always studied hard at school, making sure to be on top of my grades. My good performance made me stand out at the public schools I went. In 2013 I found out that an NGO, which was called "Primeira Chance" (First Chance), was granting high performance students from the best public high schools scholarships that would allow them to go to top-notch private schools in my State capital, Fortaleza. I went through an admission process and was granted the scholarship, so I started to go to one of the best schools in Fortaleza.

That opportunity changed my life. By earning the scholarship, I realized I could do anything if I worked hard enough. I believe this thought motivated me to keep working and achieving high purposes, such as being among the best students of my class, winning medals at the scientific Olympics and, at the end of the high school years, being accepted to great universities.

Today, I live in São Paulo, the largest city of Brazil, and I go to Insper, one of the best business schools of my country, where I am majoring in Economics. This was only possible because I, once again, was granted a scholarship, this time to attend university. I love my college and I always try to make the most out of all the opportunities it offers. Since my first semester, I have engaged in many extracurricular activities, such as being a member of our student's association, working for the local AISEC committee at Insper and taking part at a group project that researched about the economics of urban transportation. Moreover, I have been working as a private teacher to my fellow students, helping them with important subjects, such as Microeconomics, Sociology and Economical History.

My greatest passion in life is to learn, especially about how people live, their sociological environment and their culture. I love learning about the art of negotiation and I really believe that dialogue, knowledge and tolerance are key in the conflict-solving tasks that both private and public sectors require today. Hence, regarding my beliefs and my passions, I came to the conclusion that my goal in life should be to become a diplomat, so I can represent my country and help to improve life conditions in Brazil and across the world.

Going to Nova has become crucial to accomplish my dreams for two main reasons. The first one is about the kind of knowledge I would be able to acquire in Nova. In my opinion, the way it focuses its program in applied policy and economic analysis would provide me with the skills I would need as a diplomat. To learn about this kind of subjects is also the reason why I chose Economics as a major: thinking based on economical arguments is a great way to make discussions more relevant and decisions more efficient. The second reason to go to Nova is about life experience. I understand that the international living abroad and learning a foreign language are both very important in most careers. To achieve my career goals these elements are, nonetheless, more than important, essential. However, as a result of all the hardships my family went through, I haven't had the opportunity to learn a foreign language as child. I have started to study English recently and I have learned a lot. Yet, going to an international school such as Nova would mean a greater step to reach the level of proficiency required from a diplomat. Regarding to a second foreign language, I made an effort to learn Spanish by myself, which allowed me to do volunteer work in Colombia on my last school vacation. That was certainly one of the best moments of my life and it motivated me to keep studying Spanish, since room for improvement in that field still remains.

Finally, I'm really grateful for everything I've achieved in the last few years. I always knew I would have to go far away from my hometown and my family to fulfill my dreams and I don't regret any of the steps I've taken, for I learned a lot from every and each one of them, knowing I was heading in the right direction. I believe Nova will be the next step on my way and will bring me closer to what I want to be, which is a global citizen.

Sincerely,

Jaqueline.