Carving his Own Path

STUDENT PROFILE

“This university brings divergent lives together, and I had to add my voice to that.”
—Abdul-Razak Mohammed Zachariah TD ’17

Abdul-Razak Mohammed Zachariah TD ’17 grew up in West Haven, Connecticut, a short drive from campus, but at Yale, he has already found ways to expand his worldview—from conversations with his classmates to summer study in France.

A sophomore, Abdul is considering a major in sociology coupled with Yale’s Education Studies Scholar program. “As the child of an immigrant mother, I learned the privilege of education,” Abdul said. “I would love to work in the education system for a city like New Haven or Chicago while pursuing an advanced degree in international relations. After that, I want to spend time living in other countries to understand how those areas want to improve their education systems. I have faith that my determination and my Yale education will help me carve a path to help them do so.”

Abdul started his world travel this summer with a French language course in Paris. “I was fortunate to receive a Yale International Summer Award,” he said. “The experience solidified my desire to learn new languages.”

Closer to home, Abdul’s favorite activity is the a cappella group Shades of Yale, which celebrates the music of the African diaspora and the African-American tradition. “We rehearse and have gigs weekly, and it can seem more like a job than an activity—but it’s a dream job.”

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Abdul to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit giving.yale.edu or call 800.395.7646.