Oluwadamilola “Dami” Oni-Orisan ’13 has been purposeful in her Yale education, studying biology in preparation for medical school. For Dami, though, having a plan does not rule out exploration; indeed, some of her favorite experiences were scarcely imagined when she enrolled here.

Already fluent in Spanish, Dami traveled to Brazil after freshman year to learn Portuguese through the Yale Summer Session. “I fell in love with the language and became curious about different aspects of Brazilian culture,” she said, “so I decided to continue my study of Portuguese at Yale.” As a sophomore, she co-led a Yale group on a cultural service trip to Cape Verde, and by the end of that year, she had declared Portuguese as a second major. Dami said, “I plan on returning to both countries in the near future.”

This adventurous attitude is also evident in Dami’s excitement for courses from the notoriously challenging organic chemistry to her unexpected favorite, A Guided Tour of the Constitution. Outside of the classroom, she serves as a tutor in New Haven’s public schools and as president of Yale’s Minority Association of Pre-Med Students, which aims to redress health disparities affecting under-represented minority groups.

After Yale, Dami intends to build on the experiences she has had at Yale. “I plan to one day practice medicine as pediatric neurosurgeon. And I will continue to mentor children and travel,” she said.

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Dami 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.

“Both of these visits reinforced my interests in medicine, Portuguese, the history and consequences of imperialism, and service projects.”
— Oluwadamilola Oni-Orisan ’13