Growing up in Beirut, Lebanon, Samer Sabri ’13 developed a dual passion for knowledge and for using that knowledge to better his world. “I decided to go to Yale because it’s a place where interdisciplinary thought is valued and encouraged,” he said. Now a member of Saybrook College, Samer is exploring a range of learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

Samer speaks with equal enthusiasm about mastering a text by literary theorist Walter Benjamin or designing a processor in his computer engineering lab. He serves as an Arabic teaching assistant, a peer tutor in both French and Arabic, a grader in calculus, and political chair of the Arab Students Association. And he takes full advantage of extracurricular opportunities available at Yale: he spent a summer working for the Lebanese microfinance firm Al Majmoua, which makes loans available to people and families working their way out of poverty; and he served as a liaison to Russian political activist Alexey Navalny during his tenure in fall 2010 as a Yale World Fellow. “As a student activist and someone who has always hoped for human rights to prevail in the Arab world, I learned a lot from Alexey,” he said.

Samer has declared his major in ethics, politics, and economics, an interdisciplinary field well suited to his intellectual curiosity as well as his commitment to social and political issues. “I have always been fascinated by the role that states have in people’s lives,” he said. “This major is a chance for me to draw on different methodologies and value systems to understand how institutions can be improved.” And he is confident that Yale is preparing him well to help governments in a changing Middle East better serve their people’s needs.

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Samer 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.