A Foundation for Success

Christian Fernandez BF ’20

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“First-Year Scholars at Yale made my transition to college much easier,” said Christian Fernandez BF ’20.

For Christian, who hails from New Orleans, the experience was invaluable. The First-Year Scholars at Yale (FSY) program facilitates a smooth adjustment to Yale for low-income students, those from under-resourced high schools, and those who are the first in their family to attend college. During the summer before their first year, participants acclimate to college life as they take a writing seminar for credit. Starting with the summer of 2019 cohort, they also take a half-credit quantitative reasoning course. Students engage with deans, faculty, and other current students in activities emphasizing mentorship, academic advising, and discovery of Yale’s academic resources.

“Adjusting to Yale was challenging,” Christian said, “but FSY helped me navigate the transition both socially and academically.”

Those friendships set the foundation for Christian to thrive at Yale. “Because I knew the way around campus, many of my peers came to me, and soon we were collaborating on problem sets and projects,” he said. “The FSY bond is so tight, we still see each other every day.” Christian has kept his connection to the FSY community strong by serving as a counselor for the program, helping to guide new students as they learn to take advantage of everything Yale has to offer.

An ethnicity, race, and migration major, Christian is considering a career in immigration law. “Yale has been an incredible experience,” he said, “and FSY was the perfect way to start my time here. I’m so excited by what the future holds.”

Donors make it possible for exceptional students like Christian to attend 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.