

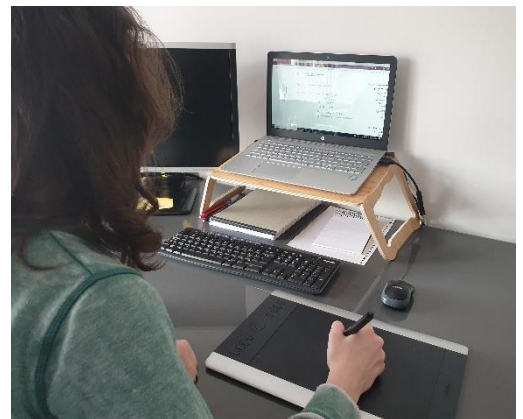
Four years ago, around this time of year, I was studying intensely for my IB finals. Reading the textbooks front to back and back to front, studying my summaries inside and out, practicing past papers until I practically knew the questions off by heart. A couple weeks later, the weather got nicer and we got nearer finishing our exams. We had parties and get-togethers to celebrate the end of 2 years of hard work, and our graduation.

Much like four years ago, I am studying intensely for my exams, only now it's Medicine. Because of the coronavirus outbreak I have come home to my parents from Edinburgh (Scotland), where I study at the university. I am currently in my fourth year, doing clinical placements in the UK hospitals. Whilst my placements and clinical exams have been cancelled due to the healthcare crisis at the moment, my knowledge exams are still scheduled to happen over the next couple of weeks, and hopefully I will be starting my 5th year of medical school in Edinburgh as planned in July!



Besides studying, around this time of the year, I would also be training intensely for the Dutch National Ballroom Championships. I started dancing during my years at the ISG, for a CAS project. Growing up in a family of dancers, it was something I have always wanted to try. It started as an innocent extracurricular opportunity, but soon grew to be a daily activity. A couple of years later, I have won numerous national titles in the UK and the Netherlands, and participated in some great performances – who would have thought! Sadly, due to the cancellations of events and the fact that my dance partner lives in the UK, training at the moment is largely on pause and the competitions we had planned to attend will have to be postponed for a later date!

When moving to the UK, I discovered that a lot of students at university teach high school pupils in their spare time. Seen as the IB is a worldwide curriculum, I figured I needed a way to deliver personal lessons online, for example through video calling. Over the last four years I have refined this and developed an online way of teaching, which turned out to be very convenient during this pandemic! I have tutored hundreds of students through HowtoIB over the last years, but since the start of Covid, the requests from students have been absolutely overwhelming and it has certainly been keeping me busy!



Much like everyone else, many events I had planned over the next couple of months have been cancelled; like my honours graduation ceremony, dancing events, my clinical placements. I do, however, strongly believe that these times require our patience and creativity. While revising with friends or celebrating graduation together might not be possible, we can still videocall each other, or find new ways of staying connected (watching films together, playing social distancing pub quizzes, etc.). I believe it is these kinds of limitations that lead us to discover the most creative, innovative, out-of-the-box solutions.