



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Moray House School
of Education

Chilean Student Heading for United Nations New York

Congratulations to Chilean PhD student, Maria Jose Ramirez Canas, who has been selected as one of 60 from 3,600 applicants from 165 different countries to take part in the *Many Languages One World* event in New York at the end of July 2016.

Organized by ELS Educational Services, Inc., and the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), this event was created to bring global-minded young scholars from all over the world together to engage in dialogue about global issues and initiatives that could be carried back to their universities and institutions.

The purpose of the Many Languages, One World Student Essay Contest and Global Youth Forum is to promote global citizenship and cultural understanding through multilingualism and the continued study of the six official languages of the United Nations – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

To participate students had to write an original essay, not exceeding 2,000 words, exploring how multilingual ability advances global citizenship and understanding. The essay had to reflect the entrant's academic, cultural and national context. Entries had to be in an official language of the United Nations – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish – that was neither their first language nor the principal language of instruction during their primary or secondary education.

"I am delighted to be selected for the One World event – when I applied I knew it was a long shot, but I had more chances to win if at least submitted my essay. So I decided to try it anyway. I am really happy and honoured to represent my home country of Chile and the University of Edinburgh and very interested to learn from all of the other participants."

Maria Jose Ramirez Canas

Only ten winners were selected to represent each of the six official languages of the United Nations – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. The Many Languages, One World "Class of 2016" includes students from 36 countries, studying at 53 universities across the globe. There are students studying Agricultural Engineering, Business, Law, Language and Literature, Political Science, International Relations, Medicine and Finance, to name just a few. These delegates will create plans of action related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The students will present these plans at United Nations Headquarters in New York City in July 2016.

In the meantime Maria Jose is working hard on her PhD in the Institute of Sport, PE and Health Sciences on the long term influence of wilderness experiences on values and life skills (Supervised by Dr Pete Allison and Dr Ken Fordyce).

That event will be broadcast online, and simultaneously translated into all 6 official languages of the United Nations.

References

2016 Student Essay Contest and Global Youth Forum

<https://www.els.edu/en/ManyLanguagesOneWorld>

See the video on last year's winners at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kve7Q0hm94>