



“The IB’s creativity, action, service component was a life experience. Through this I have learned that life is not so much about making oneself happy as much as it is about seeing how much one’s life can impact others.”

Natasha Reurts

2006 IB Diploma Programme graduate
Seoul Foreign School
Seoul, South Korea

Natasha Reurts is a born mentor who creates community connections wherever she goes—literally around the world. She had lived on three continents by the time she became a 2006 IB Diploma Programme graduate, and travelled to a fourth continent to earn a combined bachelor of international studies and laws degree at the University of Sydney, Australia.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Natasha moved to Athens, Greece, when she was 6 and then to Copenhagen, Denmark, Manila, Philippines, and Seoul, South Korea. She was already accustomed to diverse cultures when the IB helped her learn to even more thoroughly embrace them. “The creativity, action, service (CAS) component enabled me to learn more about the culture that I was living in and taught me to immerse myself within it to get the most out of it,” she explains. “I take this lesson from CAS and apply it to everything new.”

For CAS, Natasha started her high school’s division of Roots & Shoots, an organization that connects youth across the world to work on community service projects. Through the programme, Natasha led students in raising money for a local child who had been diagnosed with cancer and in “opening their backpacks,” a programme to send school supplies to earthquake victims in Pakistan. “Along with my other CAS activities, this programme taught me how to maintain a healthy and productive balance between academics and other things I enjoyed doing,” she says.

The IB curriculum gave Natasha many of the skills she applies to her outreach efforts: independent research and writing from the extended essay, critical thinking from theory of knowledge, and public speaking from oral commentaries. She uses these skills on her many pursuits, whether tutoring students in foundations of law, teaching young children to swim, providing diabetes education in rural communities of South Africa, or travelling to Angola to tell parents, teachers and students about the IB and her life as a “third-culture kid.”

At Sydney University, Natasha founded To Help To Grow, a volunteer programme that enlists students to mentor local primary school students. As a resident assistant at Sydney University Village, Natasha does more than merely offer help to students who are experiencing difficulties. She actively organizes social, sporting and cultural activities that connect students to one another and to the local community.

“My CAS experience has been a huge influence. Whatever I will do, I know it will have a social justice and community aspect.”



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