

Email: [laraolcer0@gmail.com](mailto:laraolcer0@gmail.com)

## **EDUCATION**

**United World College of South East Asia, Singapore** - High School, Class of 2026

**IB Subjects:** HL English Language and Literature, HL History, HL Global Politics, SL French A, SL Biology, SL Analysis and Approaches Mathematics

**IGCSE Subjects:** English First Language/Literature, Mathematics, History, Science (Double Award), Fine Art, Critical Perspectives, French Self-Taught.

**International French School, Singapore** - 2016-2019

**Lycée Français International Marguerite Duras, Ho Chi Minh** - 2010-2016

## **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

**Northwestern University, *The Medill Online Workshop*** - July 28 - August 8 2025

- Selected for a competitive two-week program for rising seniors hosted by the Medill School of Journalism
- Intensive instruction in news and feature writing, interviewing, and media ethics,
- Complete multiple hands-on assignments, including profiles, leads, and headlines, with personalised feedback from Medill faculty and professional journalists
- Participated in small-group sessions and discussions with over 10 guest speakers from the journalism industry

**Bianet.org, *Editorial Intern*** - Istanbul, Turkey, July 2025

- Writing articles and reporting news in English for an independent media platform focused on human rights, gender equality, and the freedom of speech and expression
- Interviewed individuals, transcribed recordings, and researched editorial ideas for upcoming articles.

**Expatliving, *Media and Outreach Intern*** - Online, Singapore June-July 2025

- Communicating with partner businesses (e.g. salons, clinics, and lifestyle services) to confirm and update listing information
- Reviewing and updating older editorial content to ensure relevance and accuracy
- Supporting logistical coordination across departments and vendor outreach

**School of the New York Times, *Investigative Journalism***, - NYC, July 2023

- Selected to attend an intensive investigative journalism course at the New York Times, where I conducted research on wrongful convictions, held interviews, and presented my findings to a professor.

**Delta Careers, *Amazon Work Experience***- Online, Singapore, July-August 2024

- Learned to use machine learning algorithms and computing, elected team leader by the assigned group to lead a project on a diabetic risk assessment program

**Kishore Mahbubani Speaker Series**- March 4th 2025

- Selected as a student panellist on KMSS *Innovation and the Making of Livable Cities: Singapore as an Urban Laboratory*. I had the opportunity to interview Prof Cheong Koon Hean, Chair of the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities & Professor of Practice at the Singapore University of Technology and Design

**Northwestern University, *Creative Writing Course***, Centre for Talent Development, Chicago, July 2022

- Awarded 96% (A) in foundational writing course focusing on the discussion of contemporary literature.
- Developed skills in sentence and narrative structure, imagery, cadence, voice, and dialogue, worked across genres including poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.

**Founder, Writer, and Editor of Independent Journalism Blog, *Lowrites***

- Founded and managed a personal journalism blog on Wix, covering global political issues and current affairs.
- Research, write, and publish bi-weekly articles analysing international relations, policy trends, and socio-political movements.
- Handle all aspects of content creation, including editorial planning, fact-checking, and audience engagement

**Sales promoter for Phoon Huat (Redman) Baking Supplies Shop**- July-August 2023

- Employed to promote a product and give out testers. Collected customer patterns, feedback, and critiques.

**Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, *Fine Arts Course Secondary 2*** - Singapore, 2018 - 2024

- Closely engaged with various materials and subjects.
- Acrylic-oil flower piece selected for exhibition at the Singaporean Prime Minister's Chinese New Year Garden Party 2023.
- Achieved full marks in the report, granting a certificate of completion.

## **LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE**

### **Head/Editor of the *Humanities Magazine* - UWCSEA, Current**

- Oversee all elements of design and writing, and direct the features of the annual campus-wide Humanities magazine.
- Published two editions of the Magazine from 2024-25, including an election-special in November.

### **TED-Ed Club- UWCSEA, High School**

- Selected and chosen by a committee to lead TED-Ed as chair. Plan lessons, face-to-face discussions with students, and host the annual TEDx event.

### **Yoga Therapy with Eunots/Tampines MINDS- UWCSEA, High School**

- Assist in weekly yoga sessions for individuals with intellectual disabilities, supporting accessibility and fostering focus and relaxation.

### **Communications, *Blue Dragon Children's Foundation* - UWCSEA, 2020- 2024**

- Designed media and outreach materials, including posters, tickets, pamphlets, and brochures, coordinated the relaying of information to the community and assisted in the planning of events.

### **Organiser and Interviewer, Admissions Committee - UWCSEA, Current**

- Nominated by the Head of Grade as a student member of the school's Admissions Committee, where I was tasked with interviewing prospective students. Selected to join the student panel for the CIS/WASC accreditation visit.

### **Ears of East- Sep 2024- Current**

- Participant in the school's political podcast, in which students led discussions to be published and listened to, during mentor time

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

- **National History Day-** Selected as a finalist for National History Day 2025 as an honourable mention in the Senior Division (Group Website), *The 1951 Refugee Convention: Balancing Rights and Responsibilities in the Kurdish Refugee Crisis*
- **Poetry Slam** - Selected to perform my winning poem at the annual Poetry Slam. The poem and article were published in the campus magazine ([https://issuu.com/uwcsea/docs/uwcsea\\_dunia\\_december\\_2022/22](https://issuu.com/uwcsea/docs/uwcsea_dunia_december_2022/22)).
- **TEDx 2022** - Speaker at annual TEDx event, *Why your necklace breaking is a good thing*.
- **TEDX 2023** - Speaker at the annual TEDx event, *The Hungry Caterpillar*
- **First Place** - UWCSEA High School Science Fair - *How Geometry Explains Time Travel*

## **PRESENTATIONS & SYMPOSIUMS**

- **Yale-NUS College Geopolitics of Asia Lecture Series, Attendee**, Singapore 20/01/2025
- **Border Wars and the Making of Religious Difference, Attendee**, Singapore 24/01/2025

## **SKILLS & INTERESTS**

- **Fine Arts & Media:** Poetry, literature, journalism, creative expression
- **Martial Arts:** Taekwondo (Gaonhae Academy)
- **Languages:** English (native), French (native), Turkish (native), Mandarin (intermediate proficiency)