

Zahra Abba Omar

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Profile

Ambitious, curious, and energetic Sociology Honours student and Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow at the University of Cape Town. Skilled in research and writing, with a demonstrated history in journalism and communications. Experienced in organizational leadership and passionate about social justice, the arts, and education.

Education

University of Cape Town (UCT)	BSocSci Honours (Sociology)	2020
University of Cape Town (UCT)	BSocSci (French, Sociology, and Politics)	2017-2019
Roedean School (SA)	National Senior Certificate	2012-2016
<i>Other Training</i>		
Continued study of French language:	Awarded DELF B1	2018
Alliance Française	IsiZulu Levels 1 & 2	2014

Work Experience

Tutor

Organization: Department of Sociology, UCT

Duration: 4 months [February 2020-present]

Tutor/teaching assistant for SOC1001F: Introduction to Sociology to approximately 40 students.

Research Assistant to Elona Toska and Accelerate Hub UCT

Organization: Center for Social Science Research, UCT

Duration: 9 months [September 2019-present]

Assists with quantitative data analysis and data cleaning, as well as research and writing for the work of Mzantsi Wakho and Accelerate Hub (Accelerating Achievement for Africa's Adolescents), co-located at UCT and Oxford University, which seeks to map paths for accelerators in the implementation of the UN's 2030 development agenda.

Intern

Organization: South African History Online (SAHO)

Duration: 3 months [July 2019-September 2019]

Tasked with writing and updating articles on the Arts and Culture section of SAHO's online archive. Assisted with preparing a forthcoming book of Omar Badsha's photographs and drawings.

Intern

Organization: ART AFRICA

Duration: 1 year, 6 months [March 2018-September 2019]

Served as an intern on the editorial team of ART AFRICA – one of the leading publications writing on the art of the African continent and its diaspora. Tasked with writing articles for the magazine's print editions as well as for their website.

Creative Writing Teacher

Organization: Scalabrini Center

Duration: 5 months [August 2017-December 2017]

Volunteered to teach a term of creative writing in English for a class of thirty students at the Scalabrini Center in Cape Town, which seeks to empower migrants, many of who are refugees and/or asylum seekers. Taught my class various story-building techniques, culminating in the production of a collection of short stories written by my students.

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Researcher

Organization: Rhodes University School of Journalism and Media Studies

Duration: 5 months [August 2017-December 2017]

Assisted with research on fake news for a project on the future of journalism, conducted by Prof Harry Dugmore of the Rhodes University School of Journalism and Media Studies. See the report, 'Paying the Piper: The sustainability of the news industry and journalism in South Africa in a time of digital transformation and political uncertainty', here: <https://themediainline.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/PAYING-THE-PIPER-The-sustainability-of-the-news-industry-and-journalism-in-South-Africa-in-a-time-of-digital-transformation-and-political-uncertainty.pdf>

Awards and Achievements

Leadership:

- Served as Secretary General for the United Nations Association of South Africa's UCT chapter (UNASA UCT) 2019
- Served as SDG Education Director for the United Nations Association of South Africa's UCT chapter (UNASA UCT) 2018
- Awarded Roedean's prestigious White Blazer for achieving Honours in Academics, Public Speaking, and Debating 2016
- Elected to serve as Prefect 2016
- Elected to serve as Head of St Ursula's House 2016

Academics:

- Golden Key Society – identified as part of the top 15% of academic achievers within my Honours course 2020
- Awarded the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship for 2019/2020 2019
- UCT Faculty of the Humanities' Dean's Merit List 2017-2019
- Achieved 5 Distinctions in NSC – English, French, History, Life Orientation, AP English 2016
- Ranked in the top 1% of IEB candidates nationally for three subjects 2016
- Awarded Academic Honours at Roedean 2016

Debating:

- Awarded prize for Most Diplomatic Delegate at UCT DipMUN conference 2017
- Elected to serve as Captain of Roedean's Debating Society 2016
- Awarded Debating Full Colours 2015
- MUN team ranked second in annual conference Wits University organized by South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) 2015
- Awarded prize for Best Speaker at the annual Wits MUN Conference 2015

Public Speaking:

- Awarded Public Speaking Full Colours 2015

Language Proficiency:

- Continued study of French language: Awarded DELF B1 2016
- Completed Levels 1 & 2 of isiZulu course at Alliance Française, Johannesburg 2014