

Harvard Mentors

Counsellor Bio

Ayah Al-Zubi '23



Concentration : Sociology

Ayah Al-Zubi is a second-year in Leverett house born in Jordan and from Cincinnati, Ohio. Ayah plans on studying the intersection of psychology, sociology and education. She empowers youth to transcend their potential and take on challenges. With sports being one of her most important motivators, Ayah utilizes the sports platform to bring on this empowerment. This passion for sports has allowed her to start her own organization, Impowera, that builds youth sports curriculum in which she launched basketball camps in the MENA in 2019. This also led Ayah to create the first ever sports and mental health conference in the MENA. Ayah has taught a sports justice course featuring professional athletes and given a Tedx Talk on diversity and youth leadership. Ayah is committed to empowering youth to change the future because they are the future. You can find Ayah outdoors, traveling, learning about new cultures, and playing any sport in her free time!

Aysha Emmerson '22



Concentration: Special
Concentration in
Resilience Studies | Secondary:
Social Anthropology)

A fervent believer in the power of words, Aysha Emmerson seeks to use hers to spread kindness, create positive change, and inspire others. Aysha is a Junior from Victoria, BC, Canada, where she was immersed in a range of leadership initiatives, including acting as Head Prefect at her school, founding a girl's empowerment program called "Self.I.E camps," and speaking at WE Day 2017. At Harvard, she writes for The Crimson Editorial Board, works as a Peer Advising Fellow, and is a proud member of Women's Club Soccer. She has helped teach a university course about excellence in negotiation, including how to better understand different personality types, and is excited to bring related lessons of collaboration, communication, and relationship-building to YLC. In her spare time, Aysha enjoys taking calculated risks, dancing (badly) with her roommates, and eating breakfast foods.

Afiya Quryshi '24



Concentration: Molecular and Cellular Biology

Afiya is a first year in Crimson Yard concentrating in Molecular and Cellular Biology, and planning for a secondary in Global Health and Health Policy down the road. She is originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she served as Senior Prefect of her high school, captain of various team-oriented clubs, and founder of programs dedicated to mentor younger students in STEM research and STEM learning. At Harvard, Afiya is involved with the Harvard Science Review, MEDLife, and other service focused programs. Due to her interest in advocacy, especially with regards to education, Afiya stands by the Latin proverb, “By teaching, we learn”. She has been so grateful to have received direction and guidance from mentors in her life, and through YLC, hopes to give back to the community by providing mentorship in leadership to build confidence and communication. In her free time Afiya loves photography, sewing, playing tennis, and cooking from global cuisines.

Ethan Kee '23



Concentration:

Undecided (likely Psychology
or History of Art and
Architecture)

Ethan is a sophomore interested in studying Psychology and History of Art and Architecture. He grew up in Walpole, Massachusetts and throughout high school sought out various leadership roles from his six year position as his class's Disciplinary Committee representative to his multiple varsity sport captaincies. Now in college, Ethan works as a designer for The Crimson and participates on two club sports teams in addition to now joining the YLC. Ethan is excited to help guide and inspire the next wave of innovators and world-changers and he hopes to encourage these future leaders to reach new and outstanding heights. In his free time, he enjoys discovering new music, whipping up recipes in the kitchen, and travelling with friends.

Malaika Zaidi '24



Concentration: History of Science

Malaika is a first-year student from the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. She is currently on campus living in Currier House. Malaika is interested in pursuing a career in the medical field, as she is passionate about tackling the disparities present in the healthcare system. She is thrilled to be a YLC counselor and looks forward to fostering a strong sense of community, helping young individuals find their voice, and inspiring others to speak up for social change. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, exploring new places, and listening to music!

Ella Deans '25



Concentration: Social Studies and Environmental Science and Public Policy

Ella grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where she fulfilled many leadership roles at her high school, including serving on the Honor Council, as President of her school's chapter of the Cum Laude Society, President of the Military Appreciation Club, and Captain of three Varsity sports teams in her senior year. Ella also participated for four years in Leadership Lab, a leadership program headed by one of her Dean of Students, a Navy SEAL, and worked for three years as a Virginia Beach oceanfront lifesaver. At Harvard, Ella is a member of an all-gender a cappella group called the Harvard Opportunes, writes for The Crimson Editorial Board, and works as an Instructor in Harvard Student Agencies Politics Academy. She likes to spend her free time singing, being in nature, and dancing with her friends. She is so excited to get to know all of you and watch you all grow and develop your leadership skills!