I am an undergraduate junior in the Psychology Department at Brigham Young University. I am also minoring in International Development, Women’s Studies and Sociology. I expect to graduate with my bachelor’s degree in April 2018. As an undergraduate I have had over two years of experience as a research assistant for Dr. Mikle South, studying different aspects of anxiety in individuals with autism spectrum disorder. I have also conducted research with Dr. Stacey Shaw on the experience of resettled refugees in the United States. I am on the leadership council for my university’s women’s studies honor society and a member of the refugee empowerment club. I plan to apply for graduate level social work programs in the coming fall.

Through my studies in international development, I have developed an interest in the experience of refugees worldwide. This semester I had a course on the children at risk globally and I became interested in the uniquely vulnerable position that unaccompanied refugee children experience. I recognized the mental health risks that such children must experience and began to do further research on their mental health. I quickly realized that there are gaps in the research on this population and I therefore decided to do a literature review to examine more specifically where the gaps remain. I have been working on this review in a writing course designed for psychology students and worked with Dr. David Erekson. I would advise other undergraduate students to find and work closely with a mentor as they are an important resources for your success.