

## BAME Mentors and their Bios

### **1) Navjot Purewal: Year 4**

Hey, I'm Nav! I'm a 4th year student at Edi. I'm from Suffolk and enjoy running, netball, and live music. In uni, I play medics netball, am involved in paedics soc and friends of msf!

### **2) Sorna Paramananthan: Year 4**

Hiya! My name's Sorna and I'm a 4th year medic at UoE - I'm from Malaysia (I'm Indian-Malaysian) and have lived in Edinburgh since I was little. My main hobbies are singing in the uni choir and a cappella society (pitch perfect fans, hit me up), and I also work with the LGBT+ medics. Also am a big plant addict and am currently turning my flat into a jungle!

### **3) Aishah Qureshi: Year 5**

My name is Aishah and I am in 5th year! I'm a little bit introverted and I found that lectures in my first couple of years of medicine to be quite intimidating - I'm sure I'm not alone in this. As your mentor I'd help on how to deal with life at med school. In my spare time I enjoy collecting records (mainly hardcore and shoegaze) and reading post modern scottish texts! If you want a big sister type vibe as a mentor or someone who can help you with some of the lecture content I'm the gal for you. Can give you insight into the best charity shops and record shops here in edi.

### **4) Garsha Seyf: Year 5**

Hi there! My name's Garsha and I am starting my 5th year at Edinburgh. I was born in London and come from an Iranian family. My background has been a key part in shaping my identity, and I'm very politically motivated - I'm also part of the LGBT+ Medics committee here in the medical school. In my spare time I'm a geek through and through, particularly gaming, anime and fantasy. I also love cooking, though I'm still trying to perfect my mum's khorosht bademjan! I'm very much looking forward to welcoming you all to our community here in the medical school!

### **5) Akua Crankson: Year 5**


Hi I'm Akua Crankson! 5th year medical student at UoE. I grew up in Streatham in South London and moved to Edinburgh for medical school. I love memes, music and am a proud Ghanaian.

### **6) Mikaela Loach: Year 4**

Hello! I'm Mikaela Loach! I'm a 4th year medic at UoE. I was born in Jamaica but grew up in Surrey, England (where I was pretty much the only Black person in pretty much an all white area 😊). I'm also a climate justice & antiracism activist, podcast host and writer! I love plants and food and reading ❤️

### **7) Aki Karas: Year 5**

Hi I'm Aki! I'm a fifth year medical student. I'm from Ascot (there's a racecourse if you know it) and moved to Edi for uni. I'm president of my year's FYC and spend most of my free time

either organising socials or going to medics netball, so Covid has really freed up my time! I love meeting new people so I'm excited to help my mentees settle into life at Edi 

**8) Claudia Chan: Year 5**

Hi I'm Claudia I will be going into 5th year at UoE. I was born in Hong Kong and moved to Newcastle when I was 8, then came to Edinburgh for uni. My main interest in medicine lies in Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery, so I am involved in Edinburgh Student Surgical Society, along with ENT Soc as well. I'm also a part of the Uni Badminton team, FYC 2022 and in my spare time I love to cook, host dinner parties (@edifoodstagram), making music, and doing art & graphics.

**9) Wesley McLoughlin: Year 4**

Hiya! I'm Wesley, a 4th yr medic, half Malaysian half Kiwi! I grew up moving around between Singapore, New Zealand, China and England. I love cooking and baking, and don't mind eating the end-products either! Mildly enthusiastic about running and always up for a hike. Interested in medical research :)

**10) Abeera Devasar: Year 4**

Hi! I'm Abeera and I'm currently a 4th year medic. I'm Indian, but I grew up in New York and Geneva before moving to Edinburgh for uni. I enjoy volunteering with Teddy Bear Hospital and am currently Vice President of the Oncology Society. Outside of medicine, I enjoy hiking, running a photography Instagram and discovering new cafés and restaurants around Edi!

**11) Priyanka Srikanth: Year 5**

Hello! I am Priyanka Srikanth and I'm currently doing my 5th year as a medic student at UOE! I'm from Singapore, studied in Malaysia for two and half years and now am at Edinburgh. I am interested in Ob/Gyn specialty and I love to cook, game and read books.


**12) Privjyot Jheeta: Year 4**

Hi there, I'm Privjyot, a 4th year medic. I was born in Edinburgh and have grown up here so have local knowledge. I'm a judo player and spend my free time doing outdoor sports (hillwalking and mountain biking). When I'm not doing something sporty, I enjoy painting and drawing. I'm interested in Haematology and going into clinical academia.

**13) Yawen Xiang: Year 5**

Hi, I'm Yawen, a 5th year medic at UoE. I grew up in China and Singapore and moved to Edi for uni. I'm interested in digital health, economics and public health. I also like to read world literature. In my free time, I exercise regularly and experiment with healthy cooking. I'm a new plant mom and enjoying spending quality time with my plant babies.

**14) Low Shin Thong: Year 5**

5th year Malaysian Chinese  grew up in Malaysia and moved here for uni. Likes = coffee + food, inclusive sex ed, concerts (who knows when I'll get to go again), medicine (duh). Dislikes = aubergine.

**15) Anushka Pathak: Year 5**

Hi everyone! I'm Anushka, I'm a 5th year medic here at Edinburgh. I was born in India, and grew up in Dundee. I intercalated in Neuroscience and am super interested in neurology/psychiatry. I love music, films (especially Indian cinema) and reading. Looking forward to hopefully meeting lots of you - see you in Edi soon! Xxxx

**16) Nusrat Apsara: Year 5**

Hello! I'm Nusrat, a 5th year medic at UoE. I have grown up in Bangladesh and have completed my pre-clinicals in Malaysia, after which I transferred to UoE for my clinical years (starting year 4.) Being a Bangladeshi Muslim woman in Edi med school means I stand out quite a bit, and have gained experience in learning to tackle difficult situations. Happy to mentor and support any incoming medics who are concerned about standing out from the crowd. Wish you all the best in your new journey!

**17) Ellie Yip: Year 5**

Hi, I'm Ellie and I'm in 5th year! I grew up in Bedfordshire with my family and (most importantly) my dog. In my spare time I enjoy playing netball and going out to eat in Edi's many amazing cafes and restaurants, as well as sunbathing on the meadows when the weather's nice enough - which is about once a year!

**18) Udita Dolwani: Year 4**

Hi, I'm Udita, a fourth year medic from Cardiff. I love reading, clothes and watching TV shows with my friends and I'm currently trying to learn Hindi. Interested in psychiatry/ mental health. I promise to cook my mentees great Indian food <3

**19) Bridget Agboola : Year 5**

Hi, I'm Bridget and in 5th year. I'm from Nigeria but grew up in London- Croydon to be exact (which is defo in London despite what some might say). Coming from London to edi was obvs a massive culture and diversity shock but slowly getting used to it. Lockdown has inspired me to get back into reading and cooking, and hoping to muster up the energy to start playing netball again!

**20) Soumya Baxi: Year 5**

Hey I am Soumya Baxi! I usually go by Baxi and I am a 5th year medic at UoE. I was born in India but moved to Northern England when I was 9. I am interested in MedTech and love a good coffee. Currently I'm starting out to gym and working on becoming a better cook!

**21) Denisse Ong: Year 5**

Hi there! I'm Denisse Ong, 5th year medic at UoE. Grew up in Singapore and moved to Edinburgh for clinical years! My friends would describe me as dedicated, efficient, a good listener who sometimes plays the empathetic therapist. Enjoys a good movie, cooking and exploring!:)

**22) Anita Ravikrishnan: Year 4**

Hi, I'm Anita, a 4th year medic at Edinburgh. I'm from Bolton (NW England) originally. I spent last year studying neuroscience, but am very much still deciding what speciality is appealing to me! Spend a lot of my time cooking, baking and trying to keep the creative side of my brain alive by drawing and painting.

**23) Feiya Hu: Year 5**

Hi, my name is Feiya Hu and I am from Edinburgh! I am in 5th year and have an interest in GP and psychiatry. I love doing pole fitness at the university, scoping the city for good food and I am a big supporter of BAME issues, particularly wanting to bring awareness to the increase of racism during the pandemic.

**24) Munira Chowdhury: Year 5**

Hi I'm munira and I'm a final year student. My parents are from Bangladesh and therefore I identify as BAME. I would love to mentor someone who would need some support. I'm probably better off mentoring someone in more clinical aspects of medicine, rather than someone early on in medical school. However would be happy to help either way!

**25) Justine Lo: Year 5**

Hi there I'm Justine! 5th year medic at UoE. Grew up in Toronto Canada and moved to UK for uni, first St Andrews and now Edi. Enjoy travelling/flying, especially to HK where lots of my fam lives. I enjoy swimming and TV, currently rewatching KUWTK my favourite reality show in prep for the new season :D.

**26) Kate Lobo: Year 5**

Sup, im Kate a 5th year medic. From outer London (original flavour). Enjoy games, Netflix/YouTube, podcasts and the odd book/exercisey thing. Currently watching stuff about artificial life.

**27) Yunus Gokkir: Year 4:**

Hellooo! I'm Yunus, a 4th year medic at Edinburgh. Originally Turkish, I was born and bred in the Northern Powerhouse that is Manchester. I'm interested in academic medicine and cardiology. You'll usually find me at the various parks of Edinburgh playing basketball or trying to get to grips with throwing a frisbee :))

**28) Navina Senthilkumar: Year 4**

Hi, my name is Navina [very long South Indian name]. Originally from Glasgow. Now starting 4th year. Intercalated in Global Health Policy. Play the flute in Uni Wind Band. In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, music, and films.

**29) Ho Zhe Xuan: Year 4**

Hi my name is Ho Zhe Xuan. A transferred Year 4 medical student from International Medical University (IMU), Malaysia to UoE. I won't say I am familiar with the life here in the UK but I would say that it'll be a great learning process for us both to grow especially in times like these. Plus we could exchange knowledge from different countries! I love walking around Edinburgh (because the views and sceneries here are fantastic) and trying out new foods and recipes.

**30) Mallaika Viswanath: Year 4**

Hi! I'm Mallaika and I'm a 4th year medic from London. I love animals and spend a lot of my spare time volunteering or travelling. Love to try new foods and explore new places so will be able to give you a good overview of Edinburgh's hidden gems!

**31) Nick Straw: Year 5**

Hi, Nick here :) Basic details: 5th year, born in Taiwan but raised in Aberdeen. My interests are every sport, although I mainly just workout and I like singing/karaoke. I love social gatherings with friends like potlucks, board-game/movie nights, come n join :) Currently, I'm interested in Psychiatry and I want to travel the world and have a fun life!

**32) Sammir Bushara: Year 5**

Hi! I'm Sammir, and I'm a fifth year medical student. I was born and raised in London, and my family originally hails from Sudan. I transferred here from St Andrews last year, and I'm happy to be living the - sorta - big city life again. I (like to say I) am pretty friendly and easy to approach, although for that you'd probably need to get me to take off my headphones - owing to my music addiction. I also regularly like to go on long quiet walks, and I'm slowly but steadily becoming an expert at cooking vegetarian food.

**33) Shreya Gupta: Year 4**

Hello, I'm Shreya, a 4th year medic at UoE. I was born and brought up in New Delhi, India and moved to the UK when I was 14. I enjoy dancing, singing, and all things Bollywood. I've also been a part of Edinburgh Bhangra Crew since first year. I really love anatomy, and would be happy to talk about the brachial plexus at length! Always here for a cosy movie night with good food and a warm cup of chai. Excited to meet you all and support in any way that I can! ❤️

**34) Jay Park: Year 5**

I'm Jay Park, a 5th year medic. I was in the Korean army for 2 years and returned last year to resume my clinical studies. I grew up in South Africa and moved back between the States and Korea. My clinical interest is in Neurosurgery and Plastic Surgery. Love outside activities including gym and I used to be a rower. Always up for hosting parties and going to festivals (when COVID ends).

**35) Ashli Alex: Year 4**

Hi there, I'm Ashli Alex! I'm a 4th year medic at UoE. Originally from India, I grew up in Staffordshire and now I'm in Edi for uni. I love dancing, films and music.

**36) Vishwani Chauhan: Year 5**

Hey! I'm Vishwani from Year 5. Born in Delhi, grew up in Singapore (& Kuala Lumpur), moved to Edinburgh for uni. Used to be choreographer for Edinburgh Bhangra Crew, where I still occasionally dance! I have an interest in Oncology, Immunology, and perfecting my chai. Low-key write songs in my free time ("2nd guitarist in a folk band" vibes). Look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the medical school. I hope to help new students, in whatever way I can, to feel supported and welcome <3