

## **Shreya Deonarine – *The Faculty of Medical Sciences***

When Shreya Deonarine entered the Faculty of Medical Sciences, she thought her goal was straightforward: earn a degree in Pharmacy and graduate with First Class Honours. She achieved both. Along the way, however, she discovered that university would teach her much more than academics.

Shreya says she always wanted to attend The University of the West Indies.

“UWI was always a name you heard and associated with achievement across the Caribbean, so there was something special about knowing that I could contribute to that legacy one day too.”

Hard work was nothing new to her. Growing up on a farm in Bejucal, Cunupia, she and her brother were accustomed to early morning chores and late nights doing homework. At UWI, her greatest challenge was learning to balance competing demands when exams, assignments and clinical rotations all seemed to arrive at once. She credits her success to her faith in God, the unwavering support of her family, and the values and work ethic instilled by her parents. Consistency, she says, was just as important.

“I always tried to keep showing up, putting in the work, and trusting that eventually it would all pay off.”

While UWI challenged her academically, she says some of her most meaningful growth happened beyond the classroom. She became involved in mentorship, volunteering and public health education, played cricket, and built lasting friendships with people from diverse programmes and backgrounds. Through these experiences, she gained a broader understanding of success and learned that knowledge matters, but so do compassion, service and the way you treat others.

Shreya's openness to new experiences can be traced to a natural curiosity that often sends her down unexpected rabbit holes.

“One simple question can very quickly turn into a full research project, and before I know it, I am ten tabs deep learning far more about something than I ever intended to.”

It is a trait that aligns perfectly with her favourite quote, widely attributed to Mahatma Gandhi: “Live as if you will die tomorrow. Learn as if you will live forever.”

That curiosity extends well beyond the classroom.

“I have a terrible habit of pausing movies or shows to look up completely unnecessary things.”

A familiar actor? An interesting film location? A snippet of dialogue that doesn't quite ring true? She laughingly admits that once a question gets into her head, she needs to find the answer.

Beyond academics, Shreya has long been involved in classical Indian dance, particularly Odissi and Kathak, and has recently developed a passion for content creation through photography, videography and editing. As she looks ahead, she is eager to complete her pre-registration training and qualify as a registered pharmacist. In the longer term, she hopes to contribute to improving healthcare and making it more accessible throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

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