Last year was a busy one for Abuzar Royesh, A16. From an internship with the Afghan Parliament, to a Nobel Peace Prize nomination for his work with displaced persons in his home country of Afghanistan, to presenting at the first ever TEDxTufts event, Abuzar accomplished a lot in a matter of months.

He’s showing no signs of slowing down. The international relations senior is gearing up to write his thesis and appreciates the flexibility within the major that allows him to focus on the topics that interest him most. “I can’t pinpoint my favorite part of studying international relations at Tufts. The classes, the professors, meeting other students, participating in internships, doing research—it’s the whole experience.”

After graduation, Abuzar plans to return to Afghanistan with a fresh perspective that he’s anxious to share. “Coming to Tufts really empowered me. It showed me how much I can make a difference. It showed me that my voice matters.” He added, “In the future, that’s the sort of perspective that I want to give to the people around me, especially in Afghanistan. That is the sort of thing that’s lacking there. The hope, the optimism, the drive. The idea that you can make an impact.”