



## Yaroslav Alieschenko

Year 51 / 2026 (Ukraine)



Yaroslav has quickly distinguished himself at Pearson College UWC as a thoughtful, academically driven, and community-minded student. Teachers across the curriculum praise him as a capable, talented, and enthusiastic learner, especially excelling in Global Politics, Marine Science, and Economics. His advisor highlights Yaroslav’s focus and integrity, noting that he maintains strong academic performance even while fully engaging in the broader UWC experience.

*“When I found out about Pearson College UWC, I realized that this program perfectly matches my values. I wanted to study among a community of ambitious leaders from all over the world and to challenge myself in a variety of new experiences, figuring out how I could become a true change maker.”*

This year, Yaroslav began work on a major research project examining the impact of Ukraine’s volunteer movement on public trust in political institutions. He has already demonstrated strong research skills, narrowing his topic and gathering a diverse range of sources. He plans to spend the summer continuing this work and aims to return next year with a full draft of his Extended Essay.



Yaroslav, far left, at this year’s Vancouver Model UN Conference

Beyond the classroom, Yaroslav has emerged as a leader among his peers. He plays an integral role in Pearson’s Model UN program — participating in major conferences such as BMUN and VMUN and

helping to organize a new inter-UWC MUN conference. He is also active in the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS), where his organizational skills and commitment to service make a tangible impact.

Yaroslav shares a room with students from the UK/Mauritius and Canada — a small reflection of the globally diverse community he values so deeply. One of the most transformative moments of his first year was a wilderness trip to Bamfield: a week of hiking, campfires, cooking, and unexpected beauty, like seeing the Northern Lights over the ocean. “It was a challenge I now remember with a smile on my face,” he reflects.

Yaroslav’s advisor notes that he has the potential to become a powerful role model for incoming students and encourages him to share his voice even more widely in community spaces during his second year.

**“Your contribution really means a lot,” Yaroslav says to those who help fund Pearson College scholarships. “You are supporting a community of young people who truly aim to help this world. By sponsoring our education, you are also sponsoring the development of the future — and your efforts are immensely appreciated.”**



*Yaroslav tries out skiing in Whistler for the first time*

**Thank you!**



## Anna Pavlovskaya

Year 50 / 2025 (Ukraine)

Anna was already a person with drive and intellect, but it was her scholarship to Pearson College that helped her discover something deeper: “This opportunity showed me I am worth more than I thought I was,” she says. “It gave me a kaleidoscope of worldviews to look through, and not just knowledge or opinions, but empathy and the power to make meaningful change.”

As a reflection of Anna’s intellectual growth and tenacity, Anna quickly distinguished herself as a remarkable academic and community leader. She excelled in Higher Level Biology, Chemistry, and Economics, where her curiosity, independence, and precision earned top marks and the admiration of her teachers. Her Extended Essay explored the market failure of Canada’s radioisotope sector, blending chemistry and economics in a focused and insightful analysis. Her supervisor praised the transformation of her work from a descriptive draft into a rigorous, analytical investigation.

Outside the classroom, Anna left an equally lasting mark. As a co-founder and leader of *Into the Wild*, she organized multi-day outdoor excursions that helped students connect with nature and each other. She also led in the HEARTH CAS, where she helped organize [Community Portrait](#), a city-wide event celebrating the art and stories of individuals affected by homelessness and substance use. And during her Extended Home Service, Anna returned to



Ukraine to support meaningful recovery efforts by helping design a bomb shelter for a local school and organizing a robotics competition for children living near the front lines. Even under difficult and urgent circumstances, Anna has used her time at Pearson serve the community, through compassion and intellect.

Anna will continue to develop and grow her deep interest in using science to solve real-world challenges by attending Case Western Reserve University, where she will study chemical engineering.



**To those who made Anna's journey possible: *thank you.***

Your support has helped cultivate not only an outstanding scholar, but a leader who brings thoughtfulness, empathy, and determination to every space she enters. Anna's journey is just getting started, and already, our collective future is brighter because of her.

**Update message from Anna on her life after Pearson College:**

"Hello everyone! I hope you're all enjoying some delicious Ukrainian food and having a wonderful time. I'm doing well myself. This summer was a needed time to recharge, reflect and (finally!) cure my vitamin D deficiency after Pearson. I'm now at Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland OH, planning to major in Chemical Engineering. I am really enjoying all my STEM classes so far, and I have already joined a research group in the Materials Science Department, trying my best to keep up with the graduate students.

Of course, I sometimes miss Pearson—the people most of all (and that breathtaking view from the director's lawn!), and the feeling of being surrounded by so many passionate teenagers striving to change the world. Still, it feels exciting to have new opportunities ahead and to be starting this next chapter of my journey.

Thank you all for making me feel at home on the West Coast of Canada. I'll never forget it."

Read more for further Pearson College Alumni updates:

**Diana Shyshkova**

“After graduating from Pearson College in 2024, I began a new chapter at Yale University, where I am studying Computer Science and Economics. **Pearson prepared me not only for academics but also for a life in a diverse and complex community, and I carry that knowledge with me every day.** My classes challenge me to connect technology and economic systems, and my extracurricular activities – from research projects to working with the local Ukraine House Community – have helped me develop a sense of service and collaboration.

Pearson and the Ukrainian Studies Society instilled in me a sense of responsibility and accountability for contributing to a common cause. At Pearson, I organized events in support of Ukraine, and during the summers, I have worked at home on projects equipping shelters, supporting children, and developing educational tools for regions affected by missile attacks. These experiences continue to motivate me at Yale, where I strive to use my knowledge and skills to rebuild and modernize Ukraine for the future.

I am deeply grateful to the Society and the Ukrainian community in Canada for their unwavering support. Your faith in us allows students like me to receive a world-class education while remaining true to our roots and duty. For me, this is more than a personal achievement – it is the shared achievement of a community that never gives up. Every time I remember with nostalgia the beautiful Butchart Gardens in Victoria, Robert’s buckwheat, Marian’s hospitality, and the community’s songs for Ukraine’s health and prosperity, I feel the power of this connection across oceans.”



## Vitalii Martyniak



**“The ability to attend Pearson College due to the financial support provided by the Ukrainian Studies Society has had a major impact on my life.** Following Pearson, I enrolled at Lehigh University, and now I am on track to graduate in May 2026 with a double major in International Relations and Political Science and a minor in Environmental Studies. The last 12 months have been especially fruitful in my life as I served as a United Nations representative for a major NGO, “Tarumitra”, based in India, advocating for climate action and biodiversity preservation. Then, in the summer of 2025, I interned at the Sociological Centre of Montenegro, Lehigh University/United Nations Partnership, and the Ban Ki-moon Foundation, where I conducted strategic research and planning, prepared grant solicitations, and assisted with youth advocacy programs at the United Nations level.

Now, I intern for PennEnvironment, supporting environmental activism in Pennsylvania. The professional development is also combined with doing extracurricular activities, including hiking, canoeing and just recently, rock climbing. Also, now, I explore career and life paths after I graduate college, considering lives in Ukraine, the USA or Canada, work in humanitarian, defence and government fields. This story would not have occurred if I had not received the financial support from Pearson, funded by the Ukrainian Studies Society. **Therefore, I would like to stress its importance in my life and express the most sincere gratitude to all the contributors!** Thank you, and I am passing my hello to all of my friends, informal family and acquaintances in Greater Victoria.