

MY STORY



THE WORK OF THE ARSENAL FOUNDATION AND THE PARTNERS AND INITIATIVES IT SUPPORTS HAVE TOUCHED THE LIVES OF A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN A VARIETY OF WAYS

The Arsenal Foundation has helped fund Worldbytes, an online citizen TV channel set up by the education charity Worldwrite. Isabel, 17, is just one person who has benefited from its work.

I live in Walthamstow but was lucky enough to find Worldbytes in Hackney. I love film and have always been interested in a career in the industry but never knew how to get my foot in the door. I needed to find a work experience placement from school and my dad suggested Worldbytes as he'd previously featured in one of their programmes. I went to visit them to find out more and they were amazing. They don't turn anyone away – you have to select them, they don't select you – so that was it, work experience sorted. But it became far more than that.

With Worldbytes not only do you get free training in camera, sound, lighting, presenting, research, scriptwriting and production, but you make actual programmes that can make an impact, which is really exciting. You feel like you're contributing to something. One of the first things I did was to help shoot more than 50 debates at the Battle of Ideas Festival at the Barbican. There were about 60 of us in the crew and we had to operate as media professionals. It was awesome, terrifying and brilliant. Here were these bigwig, global speakers debating major issues on everything from assisted suicide to the economy to censorship in sport. They

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trusted me with a camera to film them! I learned the basics of capturing and organising footage for the edit after the event, too. I'm looking forward to learning editing next.

I've learned so much and I'm still volunteering and still learning with Worldbytes. I've done everything from creating a vlog to now shooting a major documentary. I now know my F stops, how crucial sound is and how nerve-wracking it is to be in front of the camera, too. I think everyone at Worldbytes gains new skills and we've all learnt the importance of teamwork, time-keeping and testing ideas. There's nothing like it really.

I hope to go to art school and then on to do film, as I love the creativity of it all. I've already had two real, paid commissions as a camera person thanks to Worldbytes recommending me – which is better than most Saturday jobs!

I think it's brilliant that Arsenal support community projects like the one I'm involved in because it's been a breakthrough for me, personally, and I think for all the rest of our crew. Learning TV making is seen as a bit of a luxury but really we all want great stuff to watch, whether it's sport, news or entertainment. So it shouldn't be a luxury, especially if we want everyone to have a go and get a hearing, not just those with the cash. Thank you, Arsenal – you did it for me!

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