

# RAJAN SONI

## BST Alumnus 2016

To go from BST to the renowned London School of Economics is a remarkable feat. To get first-class honours is another thing entirely, especially with winning the exclusive LSE Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement award. As a former student of BST, Rajan Soni's character shows the attributes we admire best. From his passions in Economics to his help in organising an annual football charity cup for leading investment banks and law firms for the benefit of the Japan Association for Refugees, he shows an engaged character: a prized attribute that BST can help to cultivate.



**Rajan Soni**

Aside from his philanthropic endeavors, his academic track is nothing but sterling. He is attending the University of Oxford for his Master of Science in Economic Development, looking within himself “to feel a sense of purpose in [his] work and study and to always keep in mind where [he] fits into the bigger picture.” During his years of education, Rajan's desire to learn about a plethora of subjects led him down the interdisciplinary path to study History, Mathematics and Chemistry for his A-Levels (with an AS in English Literature), illustrating the integrative approach he takes to his studies in an array of fields.



In Soni's guiding years at BST, he developed a large assortment of interests and passions - including what we see today. His school years led to his eventual specialization in the fields of development economics, macroeconomics, international trade and political economy. Exposing himself to these fields has developed his abilities to discover where following such interests will take him, particularly his experience as an Assistant Economist for the Department for International Trade, providing analysis and evaluation of large market issues. Coupled with multiple internships, an editorial post at the Guardian contributing to articles for The Observer on a range of topics, and working on climate change issues for the Energy, Environment and Agriculture team in HM Treasury, his eclectic curiosity has served him well in exploring what the very best of the world can offer.

But his achievements go beyond the beaten academic track: his contributions to his communities are impressive, from volunteering to reviewing, from fact-checking and copywriting chapter drafts sent to Yale University Press and newspapers. He has helped in organising large events and football tournaments dedicated to charity that have raised a hefty ¥10,000,000 (£70,000) across his two years, an impressive feat!

Nevertheless, Rajan has not only been focused on the world of academics but has found happiness a little closer to the mainland of BST than the far-off reaches of Oxford. His recent engagement to a student he met at BST, has led to the flourishing of a happy relationship, so much so that they are soon to be married - a first in BST's history. We at BST offer our most heart-warming congratulations, and wish the couple the very best of luck in their years to come.

*Article written by BST Year 10 student,  
Richard Bannatyne (May 2021)*

