

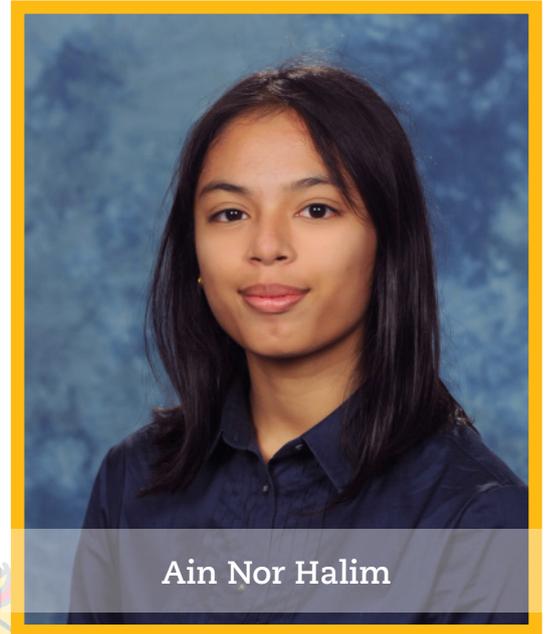
# AIN NOR HALIM

## BST Alumna 2017

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After taking A-Level Fine Art, History, and Maths, Ain blazed a trail, being the first ever BST Alumni to win a place at the Royal Academy of Art in the Hague. This famous art school has nurtured such talents as Willem Maris and Jan Hendrik Weissenbruch and continues to be an artistic epicentre in this distinctively European city.

When she started on her A-Level journey, Ain was not thinking of pursuing art as a career. However, one day in a deep conversation with her art teacher she realized that out of all of her A-Level subjects,



Art was the one that really inspired her, and the one she really enjoyed, day in, day out. It took some convincing, even for herself to come to the idea of possibly developing her art into not only a hobby but a career path too. Ultimately, she is an example of the famous adage: 'find something you love, and you'll never work a day in your life. Although her work is demanding and requires long hours of labor, it is a labor of love and is filled with the satisfaction of personal fulfillment.

Ain chose The Hague because of the amazing facilities and opportunities that The Hague offers but also because British universities were prohibitively expensive. By contrast, The Netherlands was incredibly good value. This all turned out for the best, as now Ain finds herself surrounded by incredible teachers and friends from all around the world. She said that The Hague is different from Tokyo and more like the Japanese countryside compared to the busy streets of Shibuya. She also mentioned how dedicated her teachers are - more like a community of mentors than anything. She recommends The Royal Academy because of the scale and scope of its facilities, adding that even really ambitious projects were able to be completed and exhibited because of the spaces and equipment available. Ain and her classmates are currently staging an ambitious graduate show which takes full advantage of the spaces that the Academy offers. She has also held several self-initiated exhibitions with her friends where they curate and exhibit works together and they received great responses where they were also featured in a magazine and one of her teammates was also interviewed on the radio.

Her artwork isn't just limited to sculpting or drawing but she utilizes a wide variety of different techniques such as video, audio and installations, and much more. She also has a keen interest in the representation of Muslim culture and representing post-colonial culture in Southeast Asian countries. For Ain, this is essential work that helps to raise diverse voices in the exhibition and cultural spaces.

After leaving The Hague, Ain is considering opening a art space with her contemporaries from The Royal Academy, not only artists but graphic designers and entrepreneurs from other creative fields. Whatever Ain decides to do in the future, her passion, ambition, and incredible work ethic will surely lead to success and acclaim. She also wanted to add that studying art is not only learning the technicalities of artmaking but also learning how to curate artworks.

I still remember seeing her work for the first time as a Year 6 student, it was compelling and unforgettable. BST is proud to follow her exciting career!

Article written by BST Year 11 student,  
Mia Yamada (September 2021)

