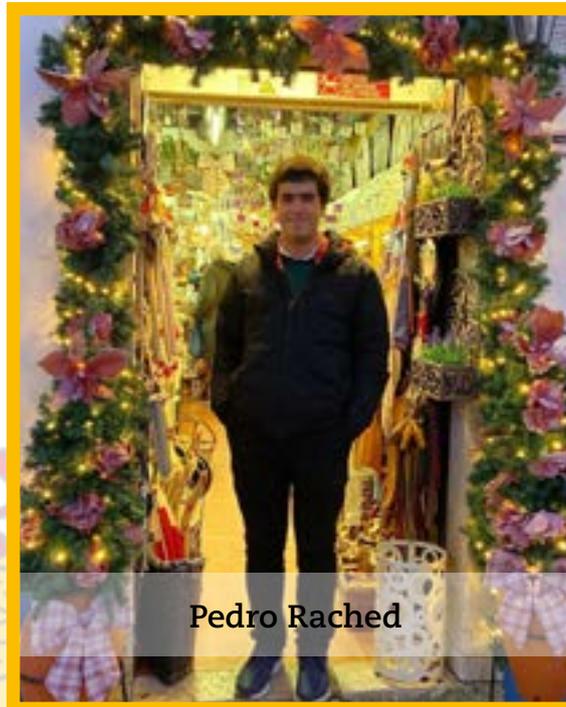


PEDRO RACHED

BST Alumnus 2017

Currently in his 4th year in the Technical University of Lisbon, Pedro Rached showed the resilience, curiosity and intelligence to which all BST students aspire. He applied to a total of 11 universities in three different countries and received offers from ten of them. Pedro continues to thrive in university by being an active member of the Chemical Engineering Student Institute and supporting younger chemical engineering students. Pedro says he would describe himself as a very kind, dedicated and curious person. He always tries to bring positivity to any situation he's presented with, treats everyone with kindness, and always finishes something he starts.



Pedro Rached

Pedro explains, "Since I was very young, I was told that if I had to do something, do it with a good and cheerful attitude. I've once been described as a "beacon of positivity," for I believe that small daily acts of kindness or self-improvement can make a big difference in your life and in the lives around you. After all, $1.00^{(365)}=1.00$, but $1.01^{(365)}=37.78$ shows how little actions can make a difference."

His transition between IGCSEs and A levels, and taking his 4 A levels of Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Spanish sparked his interest for chemistry, specifically for material sciences and chemical engineering. "I have always wanted to explore literature, even though my desired university course is very science-heavy; I thought it was very important to take subjects like Spanish rather than Further Mathematics to keep my university options open," explains Pedro when looking back. He earned himself a place in the University of Manchester to study chemical engineering, but he canceled the offer two days before his flight to the UK, and a new life in Portugal commenced.

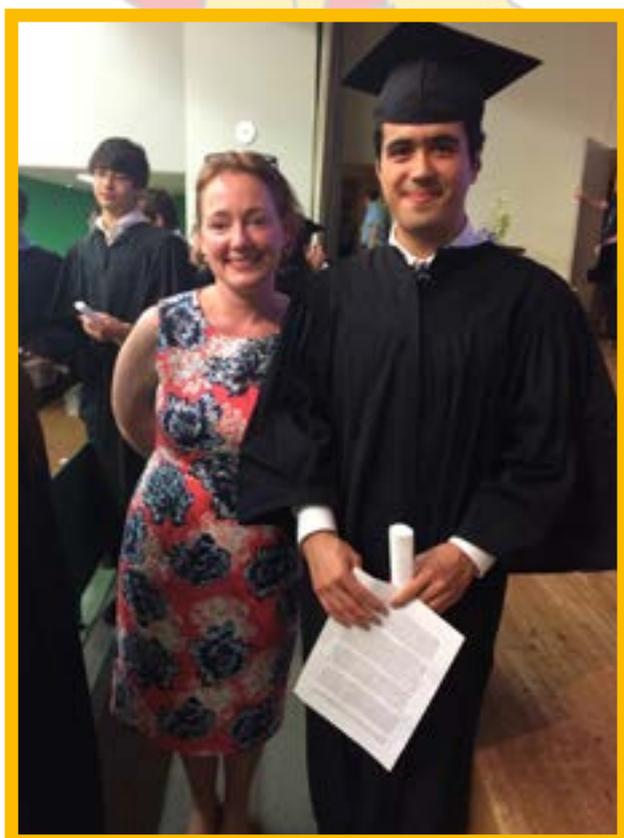
With family in Portugal, Pedro decided to pursue his studies there. It didn't take him long before he was accepted into the Technical University of Lisbon, the top university for Sciences and Engineering in Portugal. His five year course in Chemical Engineering began very broadly, with foundational courses in Math, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer Programming.

In the 2nd and 3rd years, he started to specialise in Chemical Engineering. Pedro says, “I was amazed to see the many different paths a chemical engineering student can take - from being an accountant, to actually being in the industry.”

Now in his 4th year into the course, he has officially started his masters in Chemical Process Engineering - implementing and carrying out chemical processes to turn raw materials into useful products. Pedro had a wonderful opportunity to spend an exchange semester in August 2020 at the Aalto University in Finland. Additionally, he recently got accepted to spend six months in Germany to write his masters’ thesis at BASF, the largest chemical company in the world, studying the development of new methods to prepare catalysts for industrial processes. He will soon be working for a Portuguese start-up company that develops mathematical models and works on the optimisation of biological processes for water residue in Lisbon and throughout Portugal.

His advice to current A level students is “to try your best. When applying for university, don’t only consider the university’s reputation. You will spend at least three years of your life there, and it is going to be a really important period in your life. Before making this decision, consider the kind of place you would want to have this experience in. What kind of environment and culture (both academically and socially) would you like to be surrounded by? Also, choosing an additional subject unrelated to your others, something you enjoy, is really interesting to explore. It is increasingly important for individuals to be well-rounded and dynamic.”

Article written by BST Year 12 student, Yuta Yoshizaki (June 2021)



Pedro with Ms. Yamada on Graduation day 2017