

Maria Vitoria Salomao – international relations

Why did you choose your degree program? How has it helped you grow personally and professionally?

I chose international relations because I am passionate about getting to know new cultures, new backgrounds, and new people and getting to know their lifestyles. My minor in management brought out a passion for doing business worldwide. So, having this mix of international relations and management would provide me with an international business view for my professional life, which is an area that I've always had an interest in. My way of dealing with different cultures, interpreting them, and managing them became better after I started to study about it, and it brought out a desire to do negotiations and business with people everywhere. That's why I will be working in a global company after graduation.

What activities are you involved in at McKendree?

I am a resident assistant worker for Residence Life, the president of Student Government Association, and the president of the International Students Organization. I run the entrepreneurship club and oversee the leaders of Med Life Club and Commuters Club. I also work for the Alumni Department and the mailroom as a student assistant.

What are you most proud of accomplishing during your time here?

Even though I won so many awards as a student and athlete, my biggest accomplishment at McKendree is leaving my legacy here, being recognized as "Maria" and not just as one more student who graduated. I believe that since day one here, I have worked hard to make a difference for this community. I think these efforts are paying off now. I couldn't be more grateful.

If you could go back in time, what advice would you give your first-year self?

I think there are many pieces of advice I would give to my first-year self, but the main one is: don't take certain things personally. People give what they have inside, and it's not on you if they are not able to give good things.

Who helped you the most on your journey?

My dad, my mom, my brother, my sister, all my true friends from Brazil and McKendree, my life mentors, and the McKendree staff.

What's next after graduation?

I am doing an internship at Global Merges and Acquisitions at the company BUNZL until August. After that, I will be doing my master's and taking my 5th year to play tennis.