

My name is Amanda Nielsen and I am a recent graduate of Choate Rosemary Hall, a private boarding school in Wallingford, Connecticut. While I was a student at Choate, I was a member of the volleyball, swimming, and crew (rowing) teams, as well as the ice hockey team in my senior year. I was also very active in student activism clubs including Save Darfur and Students for a Free Tibet; I was also a member of academic clubs such as Model United Nations and was the international section editor of a student newspaper Beyond Choate. In my senior year I was chosen to be a prefect, a student leader that lives with younger students and acts a mentor. I worked closely with faculty and six other prefects to manage forty seven freshmen girls in the largest dorm on my campus. My school emphasized a complete, well-rounded education so I have studied basic physics, chemistry, and biology and mathematics up to calculus, as well as English language and composition, philosophy, religion, and ancient and modern history. I also studied Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, and Advanced Topics Economics at the Advanced Placement level. Previous to Choate, I completed two years of Spanish language study and one year of Japanese, and while at Choate I did three years of Chinese language and culture study. Experiencing and understanding new cultures is of great interest to me, and I enjoy learning new languages and traveling immensely. This past summer, I went on a scholarship-funded month long trip to Thailand. There I worked with 14 other students to teach English at a Burmese Refugee School, where we also built a library.

This fall, from September to early December, I am doing a semester program in India with Where There Be Dragons. As part of the program, I am taking daily Hindi classes and attending religion and philosophy lectures as well as performing my own Independent Study Project (ISP). For my ISP, I am interning at the Center for Social Research ([www.csrindia.org](http://www.csrindia.org)) at their Varanasi HIV/AIDS clinic and Sarnath Women's Health Clinic. I work closely with counselors and patients and am conducting two case studies--one on an HIV positive patient and the other on a village woman who has taken a microloan. I am also in the process of implementing the use of computers at the clinic, and am securing a patient record database program to synthesize client information and decrease the amount of paper used. I am fascinated by change and progress, especially in health and social issues, and enjoy observing and commenting upon it, but I am very motivated to be apart of the process. I am an analytical and forward thinker, and like my father Bent Nielsen, I am constantly tinkering to improve things, whether they be products or ideas. I have worked with my father to bring alternative energy to my alma mater, Choate, not only to decrease the school's ecological impact, but to use the profits to provide scholarships for potential students. I hope to make Choate an example,

and to eventually implement this green way of generating scholarships with secondary schools and universities around the country.

I hope this has given you an idea to my interests and strengths, but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. I am very excited to have this opportunity to work with you and your colleagues at the Alexandra Institute.