



# Azra Samji

## 1. What's your career ambitions as it relates to Social Innovation?

I am interested in working in a leadership capacity with a national or international non-profit social enterprise, or working as a consultant to such an organization, to find creative ways that the organization can grow and remain financially sustainable without relying solely on government funding. Ideally, I would love to work with an organization that focuses on education, healthcare or creating a more equitable society. Ultimately, I hope that my future career will be able to be challenging, thought-provoking while also creating a lasting change and positive impact on the world.

## 2. What experiences have you had at Schulich to help you prepare for this?

I was part of SIMA, the Social Impact Management Association, which helped me connect to other students who were passionate about the social sector. As part of SIMA, I was able to participate in the MIINT case competition on behalf of the Schulich School of Business. This was a great way to understand more about the field of impact investing and social impact in a business context. In addition, through the support of the Social Innovation & Impact specialization, I was able to connect and volunteer with the Heart & Stroke Foundation Canada and learn more about real-world applications of concepts I was learning about in class.

## 3. What advice would you give to first-year Schulich students interested in Social Innovation?

My biggest piece of advice would be to ask questions and get involved! Connecting with other students and professors was the most helpful way I found to learn more about what a career in the social sector might look like. I found that the more people I spoke to and questions I asked, the more opportunities the world of social innovation and impact seemed to offer. I also found the courses I have taken so far in the program have really helped me have a better understanding of future career paths. In particular, I would encourage anyone interested in social innovation & impact to connect with their professors and any guest speakers brought in during class to learn more about what they do and why they do it.