

Rachel Blatyta

Jovem Embaixador/a - Young Ambassador - The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Portugal 2026-2027

[Rachel Fraiman Blatyta]

PERSONAL STATEMENT

It would be an honour to join the Young Ambassador team for DofE Portugal. The Award has genuinely inspired me to take part in a wide variety of community involvement activities and to make a real difference in the lives of others, and I hope to pass that same inspiration on to future DofE participants.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD (DOFE) JOURNEY

Currently: 15 days from completing the Silver Award and about to begin the Gold Award this year.

Involved with DofE since: The start of Year 10 (two years).

Silver Award (nearing completion)

Physical: Personal training.

Skills: Learning to play the piano, learning how to play 3 songs, use both hands and read the piano score.

Volunteering: Tutoring public school students with the organisation AJU, befriending, supporting, and teaching children the value of learning.

Expedition (Luxembourg, 21-24 June): Completed a 3-day expedition with the group goal of documenting the journey through video and photography to hand down to next year's Silver group. Our team captured landscapes and wildlife along the route, completing aim for roughly 15 quality photographs across the trip.

Highlight: Reaching the top of a cliff on day two to take in a breathtaking view over Luxembourg's Mullerthal Region.

Bronze Award (completed)

Volunteering: Volunteered at Escola de Equitação Rui Barroso, caring for horses (grooming, equipment care, walking horses, preparing them for lessons) and guiding English-speaking tourists through tours. Gained hands-on horse-care skills while learning something entirely new.

Physical: Varsity football (Team A), competing in the CHESS and ESC tournaments.

Skills: Learned French, strengthening reading, writing, and speaking skills.

Expedition (Ericeira): Hiked a designated trail while practising Leave-No-Trace principles, collecting two bags of litter, and documenting environmental impact data (microplastics, trail erosion, invasive species) to support conservation awareness and trail maintenance reporting.

LEADERSHIP

School Prefect, Portuguese Section: Organised and supervised monitors, each responsible for a specific year group, and acted as the main point of contact between students and teachers for complaints and suggestions.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

Football: Varsity player for 2 years (Team A). 1st place, CHESS 2023 (Division 3); 1st place, CHESS 2024; 3rd place, ESC 2025.

Piano: Piano player, developed through DofE Silver Skills section.

MAVI (Co-Founder & Developer): Co-founded and built MAVI, a platform supporting women affected by or seeking to prevent breast cancer, offering mental health support, symptom-awareness tutorials, symptom logging, an appointment calendar, and secure storage for medical records to share with doctors (not a diagnostic tool). Semifinalist, Technovation Girls 2026 (ongoing project).

Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS): Attended the two-week "Solving Global Challenges" course (Summer 2026, 13% admission rate). Co-developed the capstone project "Truefeed" idea, throughout the course, a school-partnership initiative educating students on consumer culture and social media influence, earning 2nd place by pitch score.

Mamma Mia! (Student-Led Musical): Played the lead role, teaching myself acting, singing, and dance specifically for the part (2026).

AI Futures Challenge (Northeastern University London): Designed a homescreen concept for Lyra AI focused on building customer trust. Finalist, awarded a £1,000 scholarship.

Slingshot Challenge 2025: Designed a 3D prototype device for collecting ocean litter alongside normal boat operations.

AJU Volunteering - Expansion Project: Currently developing a pitch and proposal, with a meeting scheduled with AJU, to make science subjects (natural sciences, physics, chemistry) interactive for young students in order to build long-term engagement and awareness.

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Languages: Fluent in English and Portuguese; Intermediate in French.

Outdoor & hiking skills developed through DofE expeditions.

Video & content editing (Learning youtube course, in Year 7).

Confident public speaker.

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

James Cross Brown Award - for excellence in English.

Engagement Award (x2).

Achievement Award (x2) - highest grades in Years 9 and 10.

Sports Award.

Finalist, AI Futures Challenge - £1,000 scholarship, Northeastern University London.

Semifinalist, Technovation Girls.