

PRITZKER CHIEFS

Itzel, Rilwan, and Shira



Hello, M1s, and welcome to Pritzker!

There's nothing quite like the final few weeks before the start of medical school. Whether you're completely excited, terrified, or some combination of both, we can't wait to join your amazing orientation chairs in welcoming you to our community. Now, you might be wondering: who is "we"? We're the Pritzker Chiefs, a trio of fourth-years who serve as liaisons between the student body and the Pritzker administration. We coordinate social events and mentoring activities and serve as peer ombudspersons. We're also behind the scenes working with the faculty and staff on the pre-clinical and clinical curriculum. You'll see us at your class meetings and you'll definitely see a lot of us in your email inbox. Most importantly, we're resources for you to talk about anything and everything including academics, clinical responsibilities, and everything else in life that doesn't go away during medical school. We're always here for you, starting from the moment you read this, and we hope you don't ever hesitate to reach out.

We can't wait to get to know you. Before we officially meet, here's a little bit about each of us:

Itzel: Greetings!! I am overwhelmed with joy thinking about all of you joining our family soon! We are so pumped for you all! A little bit about me, I grew up in Aurora, Illinois which is a suburb about an hour and a half away from Chicago with traffic (let's be real, there's always traffic). I studied American Cultures Studies and Biochemistry at Washington University in St. Louis. Then took a quick detour to be a residential counselor at the Illinois Math and Science Academy (my high school Alma mater)! Pritzker was the first school I interviewed at, and it was incomparable. Every time I stepped foot on this campus, whether to interview or at Revisit, it felt like I was coming home rather than just visiting. The people were passionate about similar things, were incredibly down to earth, and I knew we were going to become my new family. I have not regretted this decision, and I hope we can continue to make this community as welcoming and loving as you all deserve. In my spare time you can catch me catching the sun at Promontory Point, casually admiring either my cats or plants, trying to procrastinate by picking up a new arts and crafts hobby or trying a new recipe, or scratching an itch to travel! Please never hesitate in reaching out—whether in person, email, text, or smoke signal! Can't wait to meet you in person!

Rilwan: Greetings new Pritzkerites! Welcome to the most incredible, eclectic, and energetic community of students in the country. I grew up in Houston, TX and went to college at a small liberal arts school in Connecticut called Wesleyan University where I studied neuroscience and psychology. After graduating I worked on the west side of Chicago for a year for a college access program at a magnet high school for health professions. I love Chicago but I really love Pritzker, and from the day that I interviewed here, I knew that this would be a place that I could thrive for medical school. And boy was I right! In my down time my hobbies include playing basketball, finding new places to brunch, and game nights. Hit me up if you would like to join me in any of those activities! Congratulations on starting medical school! Please reach out if I can be of help with anything in the future or just to say hello. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Shira: Hi, M1s! I'm so excited to meet all of you very soon. A brief introduction to me: I was born in Israel but have lived here in Hyde Park since I was 7 years old. Though I had a (momentary) desire to go far and away for college, my parents had a baby when I was 16, and what was initially a desire to be present for his cutest baby years turned into a complete incapacity to leave Chicago. Meaning: I went to UChicago for undergrad, where I studied anthropology and gender & sexuality, and I couldn't resist staying for medical school, too. When I'm not in the hospital or in the BSLC, you can find me hanging out with my dog, baking and decorating (vegan!) cakes, and watching TV shows I'm too embarrassed to share in this mailing but will happily tell you all about in person. Needless to say, I can't wait to share these activities with you. I'll also be one of your anatomy TAs (or, as we call them at Pritzker, Peer Educators), so you really can't avoid me. Please reach out as you want and need in the next month; this transition to med school isn't known for being easy, but the three of us are here, always. See you soon!