

December 2025

Warm greetings, my name is Angelica María Guerrero Falconí, and I am a third-year medical student. I am from a small town on the northern coast of Peru where I grew up and completed my basic education. There are no professionals in my immediate family, so I'm very happy to be able to study. I really like my degree; each new lesson gives me more clarity and confidence to keep going.

Classes are in person from Monday to Saturday at the hospitals and the university. We often have virtual classes on Sundays. Every day we take exams, submit reports, give presentations, and work on clinical cases. Now I'm on Sundays, traveling to my hometown, which is two hours from Trujillo. There I study, see my family—my mother, sister, and great-aunt—water the plants, take care of my dogs and cat, and work carving crafts. Upon graduating, I will have the necessary tools and resources to work with the most vulnerable populations through medical services and advocacy for public policies that improve the quality of healthcare.

In my country, there is a great deal of inequality. Many people lack access to healthcare services and an education that would help them prevent disease. We are a country with a high rate of childhood anemia—almost half of Peruvian children are affected. Tuberculosis, in its various forms, is endemic. Infections due to lack of access to basic services and the ever-increasing number of people experiencing homelessness are health problems stemming from structural poverty.

Perhaps I won't be able to do everything, but I know I can do something. If more of us work together for the common good, our impact will be much greater. I have faith in a kinder, more compassionate, and happier humanity.

Sincerely,

Angélica