



2025 Regional Council Election Candidate

Region 3

Name: Arshita Kapoor

Professional Title: College Counsellor

Institution/Organization: Jayshree Periwai International School

Country of Residence: India

Member Group: Secondary (High School)

Applicant Questions

Explain your motivation for pursuing a leadership role with International ACAC, as well as why this position in particular. Highlight how your leadership experience and involvement with the organization make you a strong fit for the role..

For the past eight years, my work in college counselling has been focused on connecting students with the best fit opportunities, building strong partnerships between schools and universities, and ensuring counsellors have the resources they need to support their students effectively. As an active International ACAC member since 2023, I have found the organization to be an invaluable platform for professional growth, collaboration, and advocacy. Stepping into a leadership role now feels like a natural extension of my contributions and my belief in our collective mission.

This position excites me because of its emphasis on amplifying regional voices and strengthening our global network. Since June 2025, I have been serving as College Counsellor at Jayshree Periwai International School in Jaipur, a move that has expanded my perspective beyond metropolitan contexts and given me valuable insights into the needs and opportunities in other regions of India. My work with students from diverse backgrounds at The British School in New Delhi- where I worked with students from over 60 nationalities, combined with experience at the International ACAC conference presentations and role as Faculty at the International ACAC Pre-Conference, equips me to represent our region authentically.

I bring to this role a history of leadership that is both strategic and collaborative — from creating new guidance initiatives at Vasant Valley School, where I started the Career Guidance Cell and set up a robust system to help students achieve their dreams, to fostering partnerships worldwide through my work at The British School and now Jayshree Periwai International School. Further, my years of involvement with the IC3 movement and IC3 Institute, where I have been a faculty, resource person, member of the Planning, Awards, and Volunteer Committees — reflect my ability to work across teams, engage members, and deliver impact.

I see the Regional Council as an opportunity to listen, represent, and act- Listen to the voices of the region, Represent the under-represented communities at the conference and Act to make sure there is increase in participation/volunteering and engagement from the region, overall, ensuring that counsellors in our region feel supported, heard, and connected to the broader International ACAC network. My motivation stems from a genuine desire to serve, to elevate our shared work, and to contribute to a stronger, more inclusive community for all members.

Drawing from your previous experience in volunteering and leadership, how have these roles equipped you with the skills and insights necessary for the Founding Regional Representative position? Please highlight your leadership philosophy and strategies for effectively managing and leading a volunteer committee, with a focus on communication, collaboration, and recognition. Additionally, share specific accomplishments that demonstrate your ability to build professional communities, mentor emerging leaders, and promote inclusive and culturally responsive practices—key responsibilities of this role.

My leadership style is rooted in trust, collaboration, clarity, and recognition. I believe effective committees thrive when members feel heard, understand their shared purpose, and see their contributions acknowledged.

At Vasant Valley School, I was the sole counsellor responsible for establishing the school's career guidance program from scratch. This meant designing processes, building university partnerships, and supporting students through every step of their applications, all while advocating for the role of counselling within the school community. I started various new programmes at the school like university fairs, alumni interaction programmes, internships etc- all where I needed to get out of my comfort zone to start something that would be beneficial for the student community. Moving to The British School, I joined a team of counsellors and learned how to leverage collective strengths, coordinate responsibilities, and scale programs for a large, diverse student body. One of my proudest initiatives there was organizing the school's first-ever High School Counsellor Conference, this aimed at bringing together counsellors from across India to exchange best practices. This event was designed to support counsellors in their work, strengthen professional connections, and foster open, ongoing communication. This is exactly the way I hope to get the community together to increase the participation and engagement from the region!

My volunteer work with the IC3 movement since 2017, like serving on the Planning, Awards, and Volunteer Committees has further honed my skills in engaging stakeholders, managing timelines, and creating spaces for emerging leaders to grow. Working with students from over 60 nationalities, and now in Jaipur with different regional contexts, has reinforced my

commitment to inclusivity and cultural responsiveness. I strive to ensure diverse perspectives are valued, local needs are met, and our work connects meaningfully to the global network.

Through my leadership, I aim to foster a Regional Council that is not only productive but also a genuine community ; one where every member feels trusted, empowered to contribute, and inspired to make an impact globally.

As a Founding Regional Representative for International ACAC, how would you outline your understanding of the role, including the priority areas you would focus on, your overall vision for the region, and the challenges you anticipate addressing? Additionally, what innovative solutions would you propose to strengthen all regional networks, enhance member engagement, and improve communication between members, the Council, and the Board, while acknowledging current practices or programs you find effective?

Currently, our region has limited representation at the Annual Conference. One of my key goals is to increase attendance, visibility, and active participation by encouraging members to engage more fully. I also aim to ensure our community supports members through initiatives such as scholarship programs and mentorship opportunities, so that more colleagues can access and benefit from the professional and networking value these events provide.

My priority areas would be:

1. Strengthening regional networks through structured opportunities for dialogue, including quarterly problem-solving meets where counsellors can discuss challenges they face, and an annual in-person regional meet-up to share best practices and build stronger professional connections.
2. Enhancing member engagement by sharing resources, creating cross-border partnerships, showcasing regional work through dedicated sessions at the annual conference, and building excitement to increase regional conference attendance.
3. Promoting cultural responsiveness so that best practices reflect the diversity of our schools, students, and communities.

I anticipate challenges such as varying levels of institutional resources and, at times, sensitive cross-border communication within the region. These require thoughtful facilitation and a focus on shared professional goals to foster trust and collaboration.

To address these, I propose:

- A regional “knowledge hub” compiling resources, recordings, and opportunities tailored to local needs.
- Rotating micro-network leads to representing sub-regions, ensuring more localised communication and engagement.
- A peer shadowing program where members can virtually observe each other's practices, fostering cross-border learning and mutual support.

Current practices, such as the Regional Institutes and conference sessions, are excellent platforms; my vision is to extend this spirit of connection beyond annual events, ensuring year-round, accessible engagement for every member in our region.

As a Founding Regional Representative, advocacy for international students is central to International ACAC's mission. Identify a critical issue in college admissions or international education that you would prioritize addressing in your region. Explain its significance, the potential impact on students and institutions, and how you would collaborate with regional and global stakeholders to drive meaningful change.

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One critical issue I would prioritise is increasing access to international higher education opportunities for students from underrepresented schools and communities within South Asia. While many urban and well-resourced schools in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal have established counselling programs, countless talented students in less-resourced institutions, particularly those in smaller towns or care homes that lack the guidance, exposure, and financial support needed to pursue global education.

My work with Udayan Care, an NGO and home for girls without parental care, has been a profound eye-opener. These students had no structured college counselling support, yet with targeted guidance, several have gone on to attend their dream schools. This experience has shown me both the transformative impact of counselling and the urgent need to extend it to communities where it has never existed.

To address this, I would collaborate with regional stakeholders like NGOs, counsellors, alumni, and universities, to help create outreach and mentorship programs for such schools. By building pathways to scholarships, organising accessible virtual fairs, and integrating these communities into the International ACAC network, we can ensure that opportunity is not determined by geography or circumstance.

Explain how you would use this position to advance International ACAC's strategic plan by aligning your top three priorities with the organization's three pillars: enhancing member experience globally, clarifying the international brand, and optimizing internal operations.

Enhancing the Member Experience Globally

My top priority is to create more structured, region-specific opportunities for engagement, including quarterly problem-solving meets, an annual in-person regional gathering, and region-specific sessions at the Annual Conference. These initiatives will make member interactions more relevant, inclusive, and ongoing, aligning with the strategic plan's focus on innovative, accessible programming and equitable access to event materials. I would also work to ensure that members from underrepresented schools and regions have access to scholarships, mentorship, and volunteer opportunities, supporting equity in participation.

Clarifying the International Brand

I would highlight the diversity, expertise, and collaborative spirit of our region by actively showcasing regional work, from cross-border partnerships to successful outreach programs in International ACAC communications and at global events. By amplifying stories from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal, we reinforce the organization's commitment to inclusivity

and ensure our region's contributions are visible in the global narrative.
Optimizing Internal Operations

I would focus on improving communication channels between members, the Regional Council, and the Board by establishing a regional "knowledge hub" with resources, recordings, and opportunities tailored to local needs. This aligns with the strategic plan's goals of transparency, equitable volunteer access, and reimagined event structures. Rotating micro-network leads within the region would ensure diverse representation in decision-making and streamline feedback loops.