

Personal Interests and Reflections



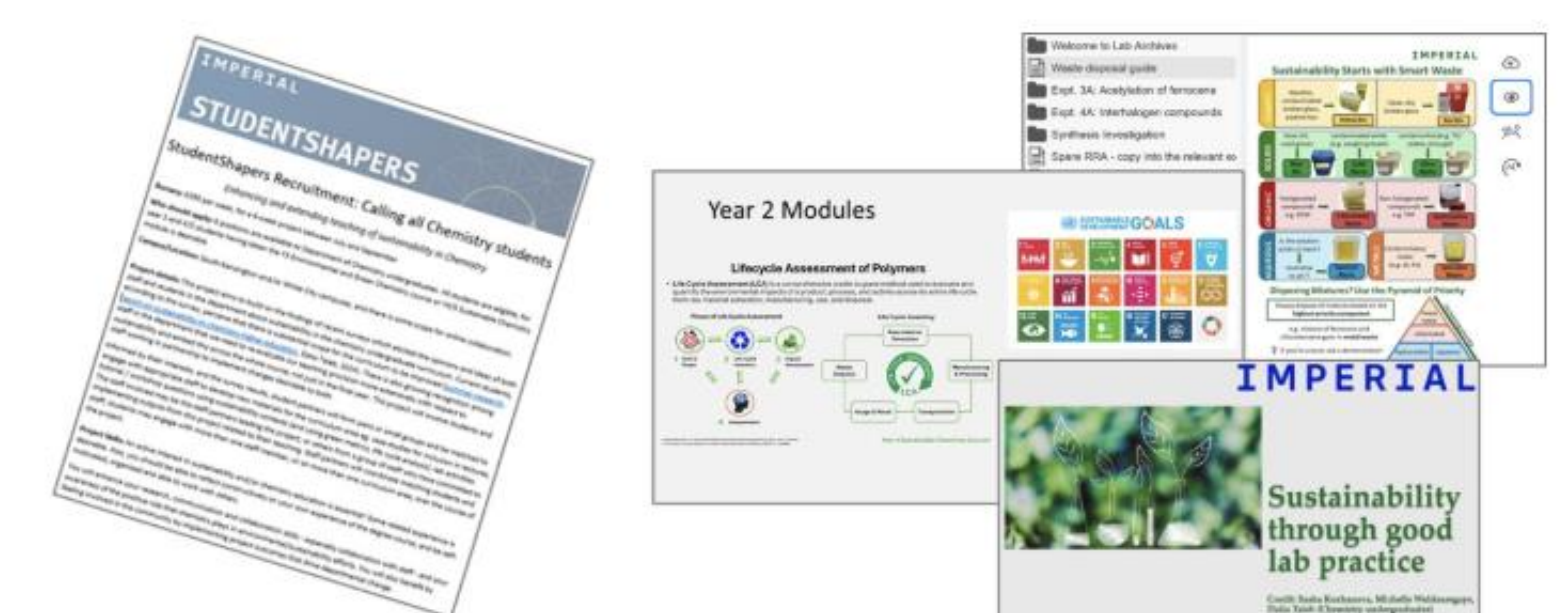
I applied to the Laidlaw programme because I was deeply concerned about the gap between education, climate action, and students' sense of agency. As a chemistry student, I was frustrated by how sustainability and the wider social implications of science were often treated as add-ons rather than core responsibilities.

Through Laidlaw, I learned to see leadership not as authority, but as listening, ethical responsibility, and sustained commitment. The programme strengthened my confidence to act on my values, reflect critically on systems I am part of, and recognise that meaningful change often begins by asking the right questions rather than having immediate solutions.

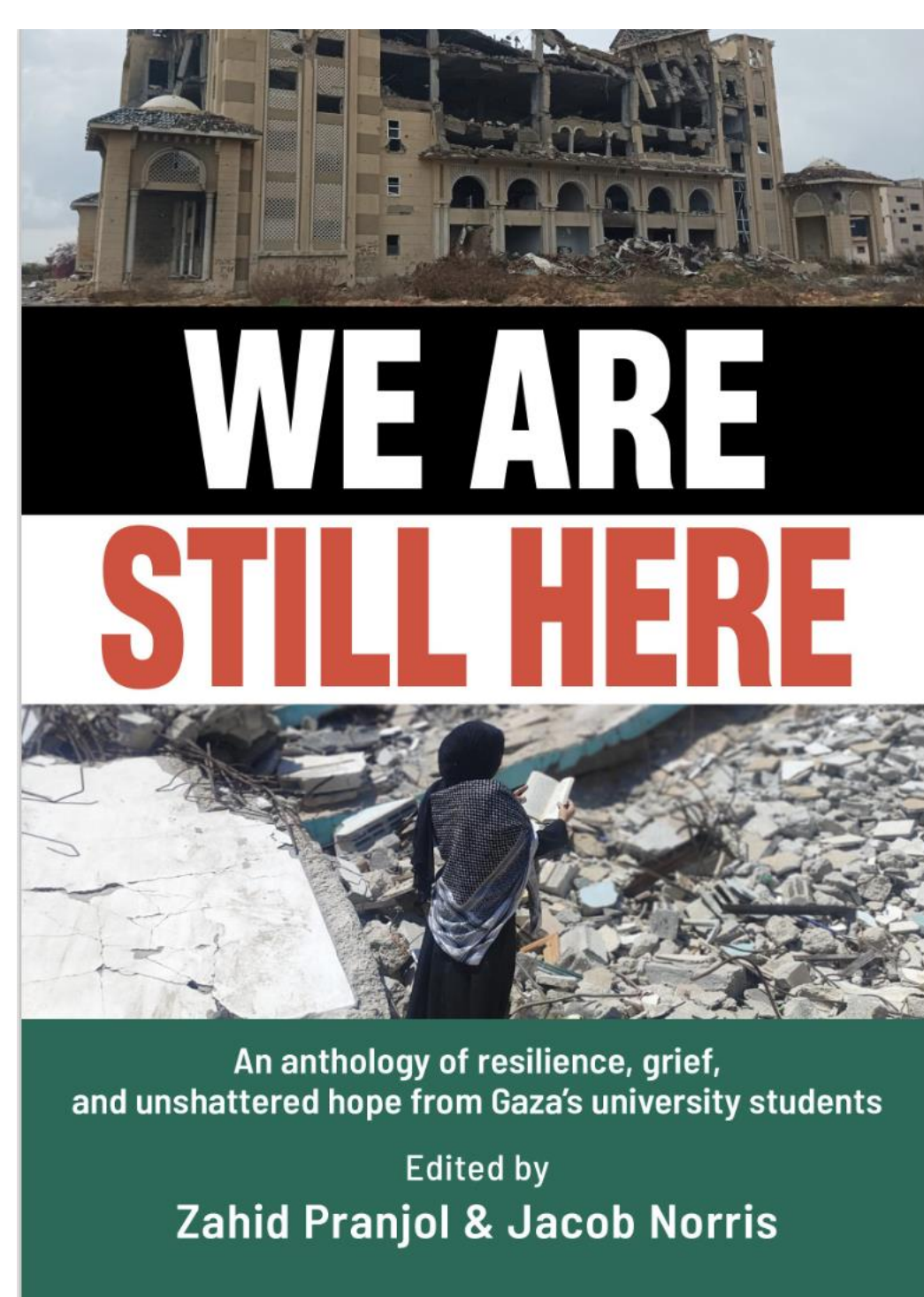
Laidlaw Projects and Outputs

My Laidlaw research under the supervision of Dr Laura Patel, focused on how sustainability is taught within the undergraduate chemistry curriculum and how this aligns with student and staff expectations. I conducted student surveys and staff interviews to identify gaps between educational practice and the urgency of the climate crisis, producing evidence-based recommendations for curriculum change.

Alongside this, my Leadership in Action placement with the NGO MARCH in Lebanon allowed me to apply ethical leadership in a community setting, supporting peace-building initiatives through research, documentation, and event work. Together, these projects allowed me to integrate research and leadership to address systemic challenges both within and beyond the university.



Inspiration for other Initiatives



The Laidlaw research directly led to a StudentShapers project where, with five other students, I worked with staff to implement concrete changes to embed sustainability more meaningfully into the chemistry curriculum.

This commitment to education and global justice also extended into other initiatives including supporting the publication of *We Are Still Here*, a collection of short stories and poems written by university students in Gaza, with all proceeds going to them. These projects reflect how Laidlaw acted as a catalyst, turning research and reflection into sustained action beyond the programme itself.