

2024 Wells Mountain Initiative Scholars Program

Let's get to know you!

Given Name	Ramona
Family Name	Ingabire
Email Address	ingabireeramona@gmail.com

Eligibility

Date of birth - month/day/year	2004-03-26
Do you plan to study in Australia, US, Canada, UK or any countries in Western Europe?	No
Are you seeking this scholarship for a Master's or PhD program?	No
Have you completed a Bachelor's Degree?	No

Additional Information

What city do you live in?	Kigali
Please select your country	Rwanda
Please select your gender	Female
Please select your country of origin	Rwanda
Primary mobile telephone	250786793145
Secondary mobile telephone (optional)	250788442712

Family Member Contact Information

Family member contact full name	Clarisse Musaniwabo
What is their relationship to you?	Mother
City	Kigali
Country	Rwanda
Mobile telephone	250788442712
Email address	clarissemusani@gmail.com
Confirm email address	clarissemusani@gmail.com

Proposed Program of Study

Program of Study	Other
If Other, What is your Program of Study?	Software Engineering
Name of school	African Leadership University
City	Kigali

Country	Rwanda
Website URL of your school	https://www.alueducation.com/
Total duration of the program (start to finish in years)	4
What date will or did your studies begin (this is when you first attended university classes OR when you will first attend university classes, not when your next semester begins)?	05/2023
What is your current enrollment status?	Currently enrolled and attending classes
How many years have you completed?	0
When do you expect to finish your required course work?	03/2027

Family Background

What is your current marital status?	Single
Number of children - How many children do you have?	0
Number of dependents - How many dependents are you responsible for?	0
Are your parents alive? Choose one.	Both alive
What was the highest level of schooling your mother completed?	Diploma
Mother's employment status	Self-employed part-time
Mother's average current monthly income (in USD- please convert using current exchange rate)	350
Mother's current or last job/title (For example: primary school teacher, tailor, house help, etc.)	Self-employed
What was the highest level of schooling your father completed?	Diploma
Father's employment status	Unemployed
Father's current or last job/title (For example: primary school teacher, tailor, house help, etc.)	Employed Full-time
Do you have any siblings?	Yes
Are you the oldest?	No
How many siblings are older than you?	1
How many siblings are currently enrolled in a diploma or higher degree program?	1
How many siblings have completed a diploma or higher degree?	0

Your Financial Resources

Do you have any prospects for employment part-time or otherwise while you are in school or between semesters, where you can earn income towards your educational costs?	No
---	----

Our maximum scholarship is \$3000 USD, but we do not usually award that high an amount. If we provide less than the total yearly amount you have asked for in this scholarship application, is there any way you can make up the difference?	Yes
Job	0
Family	800
Savings	30
Awarded scholarships	0
Government loans	0
Other loans	0
Total amount you can provide	830
Have you received scholarships from any other organizations/institutions?	No
How have you been paying for school? And what has changed in your ability to pay so that you now need this scholarship?	My education has been supported primarily by my father, who battles Schizophrenia, a condition stemming from the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. This illness intermittently incapacitates him, hindering his ability to work. While I managed to pay only \$1000 of the required \$2000 for my first year's studies due to financial limitations, I successfully completed the initial two terms. However, I've been notified that I cannot continue my studies in the upcoming semester beginning on January 19th due to my inability to meet the necessary financial criteria. Regrettably, my father's ongoing health challenges prevented me from fulfilling the enrollment's financial obligations. I fear that unless this situation changes, my studies may come to an indefinite halt.
How much debt do you owe to the school?	1,000
How much money are you requesting from WMI?	1,800

Your Academic Costs

Name of local currency	Rwandan francs
Current exchange rate, \$1 US Dollar equals what amount of local currency	1262.503217
Date the current exchange rate was calculated - month/day/year	01/02/2024
Tuition	2541702
School fees, other than tuition. For example: lab fees, uniforms, activity fees	45000
Cost of accommodations	300000
Is the cost of accommodations included in the school fees?	No
Cost of meals	250000
Are your meals included in your school fees?	No

Books & school supplies	45000
TOTAL	3181702.00
Tuition	2000
School fees, other than tuition. For example: lab fees, uniforms, activity fees	35.41
Cost of accommodations	236.09
Is the cost of accommodations included in the school fees?	No
Cost of meals	196.04
Are your meals included in your school fees?	No
Books & school supplies	35.41
TOTAL	2502.95
Do you live on campus or off campus?	Off Campus
Please upload the fees structure from your university. If you are not yet accepted, provide the fees structure from the school's website.	ALUs-Fees-Structure-62575.png

About You

What do you plan to do after you complete your education, including where you hope to live?	After completing my studies in software engineering, I want to contribute my expertise locally to advance technology. By pursuing a career in software engineering, I hope to contribute to the growth of the technology sector within my homeland, addressing challenges and contributing to the digital transformation of the community. In addition to reflecting my commitment to making a positive impact, this choice aligns with my belief that local solutions can contribute to sustainable development.
Do you know any current or past WMI Scholars?	No
Have you applied for a WMI scholarship in the past?	No
How did you hear about WMI? Are you affiliated with any organizations?	I saw it on google scholars dev website as I was looking for opportunities.

Education History Set Number 1

Name of school	G.S APE Rugunga
Location of school (city, country)	Kigali, Rwanda
Level	Primary
Year completed	From Primary 1 to Primary 6

Education History Set Number 2

Name of school	Fawe Girl's School
Location of school (city, country)	Kigali, Rwanda

Level	Secondary
Year completed	Ordinary Level

Education History Set Number 3

Name of school	Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology
Location of school (city, country)	Bugesera, Rwanda
Level	Secondary
Year completed	Advanced Level

Education History Set Number 4

Name of school	African Leadership University
Location of school (city, country)	Kigali, Rwanda
Level	Degree
Year completed	currently enrolled

Other Scholarships

Have you applied to any other scholarships?	No
---	----

Work/Employment History Set Number 1

Name of company/organization	CPS Ltd
Employment status	Employed part-time
Start date	08/2022
Do you currently work here?	No
End date	06/2023
Brief description of responsibilities	I was tasked with the responsibility of overseeing inventory management, handling EBM receipts, and ensuring accurate record-keeping of all incoming and outgoing goods.
Monthly salary (in USD-please convert using current exchange rate)	79.42

Work/Employment History Set Number 2

Name of company/organization	Excella School
Employment status	Casual labour
Start date	06/2023
Do you currently work here?	No
End date	09/2023

Brief description of responsibilities	I served as an integral part of the Information Technology department, contributing my expertise to enhance technological infrastructure, troubleshoot system issues, and support the school's digital operations.
Monthly salary (in USD-please convert using current exchange rate)	95.30

Volunteer History Set Number 1

Name of organization/institution	Our Past Initiative
Brief description of organization/volunteer activity	Mobilize Rwandan youth via social engagement to aid vulnerable communities, combat genocidal ideologies, and advocate for social inclusion
When did you start?	08/2022
Are you currently volunteering with this organization?	No
End date	10/2022
Total hours volunteered (estimated)	40

Volunteer History Set Number 2

Name of organization/institution	Youth for Youth
Brief description of organization/volunteer activity	initiative dedicated to community service, specifically focusing on fulfilling the basic needs of children, such as organizing clothing drives.
When did you start?	11/2022
Are you currently volunteering with this organization?	No
End date	03/2023
Total hours volunteered (estimated)	48

Volunteer History Set Number 3

Name of organization/institution	Kigali Public Library
Brief description of organization/volunteer activity	Kigali Public Library is a central resource hub, offering a wide array of books, multimedia materials, and educational resources for all ages.
When did you start?	06/2021
Are you currently volunteering with this organization?	No
End date	08/2021
Total hours volunteered (estimated)	50

Volunteer History Set Number 4

Name of organization/institution	Move Africa
Brief description of organization/volunteer activity	Move Africa is an African Union initiative dedicated to fostering intracontinental trade and mobility.

When did you start?	09/2023
Are you currently volunteering with this organization?	No
End date	11/2023
Total hours volunteered (estimated)	60

Volunteer History Set Number 5

Name of organization/institution	Giants of Africa
Brief description of organization/volunteer activity	"Giants of Africa" is a foundation and basketball-focused initiative founded by Masai Ujiri, aimed at using basketball as a tool for youth development across Africa.
When did you start?	06/2023
Are you currently volunteering with this organization?	No
End date	08/2023
Total hours volunteered (estimated)	60

Personal Statement & Essay Question

Personal Statement	<p>SHOOT! JUST SHOOT THE BALL. My teammate was shouting at me to score as I held the basketball. "No! Turn around, make two steps forward against the defender, do a crossover dribble, and make the shot," my mind told me instead. Staring at the basketball as the clock was ticking, fear took over, and all I knew was that I had to make the right move and score because my team depended on it. I grew up in the Southern part of Rwanda in the Ruhango district with my eight siblings. It was tough for my parents to cater to all of us until one day when I was in my fifth primary, my uncle came to take me to live with his family in Kigali so that I would get a good quality education. On our way to Kigali, my uncle instantly picked up his phone and said, "Siri, call Esther(his wife), please!" I looked at him, confused because I could not recall seeing the phone ring. "Is he just talking on his phone?" I asked myself, or maybe he was trying to crack another one of his jokes. Who knows? I could not understand what was going on until the next minute when he was talking to his wife. "How did you do that?" I asked him when he got off the phone. "Oh, I just asked Siri to call Esther," he answered. The answer seemed easy and understandable, but it was the beginning of a new world I eagerly wanted to explore. I continuously bombarded my uncle with questions about the mysterious Siri that he got tired of, but he was intrigued by my curiosity. Two years later, when I returned to my home village, my mother asked me what I wanted to be, and I answered, "Software Engineer." She frowned at my answer because it differed from what she expected. "Since when did you change your mind?" she asked. "Since I saw my uncle talking to Siri," I answered. She was confused and unhappy because my mother always valued helping people in need, and it would be reasonable that the only career she wanted for her daughters was to be a doctor or at least work in public health. I could not blame her because that was the only way she ever knew. Being traditional was not just following tradition but also fearing change. A computer to</p>
--------------------	---

her was just another useless gadget with a screen to distract people and make them lazy, but to me, it was another tool, neither a syringe nor a pill, that could save people's lives. I knew I wanted the same thing as my mother, helping people, but my heart wanted to navigate this differently. Saying guilty for disappointing my mother is no lie, but I had never been so sure of myself. When I got admitted to Gashora, one of the best schools in Rwanda, I was very excited and hopeful for the future. I joined the Robotics Club, where I extensively explored computer science and coding. It was a life-changing experience because we built websites and programmed micro bits to create games. I learned that I could make something that only used to live in my imagination. I could become a creator. Eager to explore that new revelation, I participated in the world-renowned technology competition program, Technovation. We created a mobile application to help Rwandan farmers boost their agricultural produce by providing them with regional weather information and soil pH status to minimize the effects caused by climatic hazards and plant their crops in regions where they can grow better. Agriculture has been a historical backbone of Rwanda's economy, contributing almost one-third of Rwanda's G.D.P. and employing approximately 68% of the country's working population, making it the most crucial key sector in the development of our country. As I pursue software engineering in college, I am focusing on artificial intelligence, where I hope to gain skills that can be useful in Rwanda's agricultural sector. Weeds, pests, and plant diseases are a few challenges that artificial intelligence sensors and alert farmers can detect to take immediate action before their crops are destroyed. Protecting people from such horrible events is important by incorporating modern solutions. Confused, standing on the basketball pitch, I followed my heart's lead and scored. Looking around the court, everybody was cheering and happy, and right then, I realized that I had never been proud of myself. We all take different paths in life; at times, they might all lead to a common goal.

In my community, a persistent and pressing issue that stirs my passion for social change is the limited availability of skill development opportunities for women, especially those who have prematurely left formal education. Many women lack access to vocational training and employment options, leaving them without a viable means of income and financial independence. Hairdressing emerges as a valuable skill that not only provides economic opportunities but also empowers individuals to take control of their financial futures. Our community is filled with women who have dropped out of formal education, leaving them without a clear path to self-sustainability. Recognizing the urgency of addressing this issue, I propose a service project aimed at teaching five women the art and business of hairdressing. This matter is deeply personal to me, as I firmly believe in the transformative power of education and skills acquisition, particularly for women. We aim to foster a sense of self-worth and confidence in these individuals by teaching them the skill of hairdressing, not only to fulfil a tangible need in our community but also to nurture their sense of self-worth and confidence. Five women will be selected to undergo comprehensive training in hairdressing techniques, customer service, and basic business management as a result of this project. By providing them with marketable skills, we hope to break the cycle of financial dependency and empower them to become entrepreneurs. However, the impact of this initiative extends far beyond the immediate participants. By becoming economically independent, these women can significantly contribute to our community's economic development. Furthermore, the project is aligned with broader societal goals, contributing to the promotion of gender equality and the provision of equal opportunities for women in the workforce.

Project Outline The training program will cover a range of skills, from fundamental hairdressing techniques to customer service and the basics of business management. The project will be designed to be inclusive for all the participants, considering the varied backgrounds and prior experiences of the selected women. The project's success will be measured through key indicators:

- Income Generation: - Monitoring the participants' ability to generate income through hairdressing services. - Tracking the progression of financial independence achieved by women.
- Business Sustainability - Assessing the participants' understanding of basic business management principles. - Evaluating their ability to sustain their hairdressing ventures over an extended period.
- Skill Proficiency - Evaluating the participants' proficiency in various hairdressing techniques through practical assessments. - Ensuring that the skills taught are not only acquired but also retained and applied effectively.

Budget

Rent of a house	: \$150
Hairdressing kits (brushes, combs, scissors)	: \$150
Mannequin heads for practice	: \$100
Mirrors and styling chairs	: \$100
Educational materials for learning from:	\$100
Fees for professional hairdressing trainers	: 300
Aprons and protective garments	: \$50
Chairs and tables rental	: \$150
Disposable towels, capes and sanitation products	: \$100
Stipends for participants	: \$50
Miscellaneous	: \$50
Rest:	\$200

By focusing on this project, we aim to create a sustainable model that not only empowers these five women but also sets a precedent for future skill development initiatives within the community.

Academic Reports

Please upload an official transcript of grades from secondary school	Ramona-Report-1-1-71022.pdf rep-71543.pdf
Please upload a key to interpret secondary school grades	Ramona-Report-1-1-14351.pdf rep-64152.pdf
Does your country require national secondary examinations?	Yes
Please upload the results	Convert-to-Word-2023-02-10-16.22-07435.pdf
Please upload a key to interpret secondary exam results	Convert-to-Word-2023-02-10-16.22-05746.pdf
Tertiary transcripts	2023-September-Term---Statement-of-Progression---Ramona-Ingabire-32020.pdf
Key to interpret tertiary transcripts	2023-September-Term---Statement-of-Progression---Ramona-Ingabire-33502.pdf

Recommendations

Please upload your recommendation letter below.	Nafutalis-Recommendation-22-55125.pdf
Name of recommender	Nafutali Nsiimenta
Job title	Teacher
Place of employment	Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology
Relationship to you	Teacher of Geography
Phone	250782322183
Email	nsiimenta.n@gashoragirlsacademy.org
Please upload your recommendation letter below.	ROBERTS-RECOMMENDATION-1-76013.pdf
Name of recommender	Robert Muhwezi
Job title	Teacher
Place of employment	Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology
Relationship to you	Teacher of Entrepreneurship
Phone	250785282298
Email	muhwezir@gashoragirlsacademy.org

Photos

Please upload your headshot below	WhatsApp-Image-2024-02-14-at-9.20.05-PM-1-13600.jpeg
Please upload a photo of your national ID below	Ramona-ID-2-23216.pdf
If you don't have a national ID, please provide an alternative form of ID above, or provide a statement below on why you can't provide one.	
Additional Photo	WhatsApp-Image-2024-02-13-at-2.24.53-PM-76140.jpeg

Additional Photo	WhatsApp-Image-2024-02-13-at-2.24.52-PM-35505.jpeg
Additional Photo	WhatsApp-Image-2024-02-13-at-2.24.53-PM-34220.jpeg