

Case studies: Successful Study Visa Applicants

1] SECOND APPLICATION TIMELINE:

Second Application submitted online: 13th June

Background check started almost immediately.

Eligibility Review started: 12th July

Medical request: 12th July

Medical done (IOM): 18th July

Medical updated to pass: 23rd July

Approval: 1st August

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED:

SOP (5pages)

LOE (4pages)

All IMM forms

International Passport

Police clearance

Birth Attestation

Passport size photo

EDUCATION

Degree Certificate

Degree Transcript

NECO Certificate

Letter of recommendation from my Under Graduate supervisor

Research publication (Front Page)

MSc Admission letter

MSc Acceptance Letter

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS:

1st Scholarship Letter (23400Cad)

2nd Scholarship Letter (16000Cad)

(I later got 3rd Scholarship of 2000Cad -came in after I submitted my application, so I could add it)

My supervisors recommendation letter (Adding 500K, funding my research and acknowledging my funding's)

My personal SOA (Current employment) with (N1.1M)

My NYSC SOA (Zero account)

EMPLOYMENT:

NYSC Call up letter (I later passed out 25th July)

Official letter of acceptance from My PPA

Official Letter from my PPA confirming my current and future role when I come back
(Written by me, stamped and signed by the company HRM)

Picture of me at work and at my CDS

NYSC ID Card

HOME TIE & PERSONAL ASSET:

My wedding certificate

My Wife's birth certificates

My siblings' birth certificate

My Own Land Property docs (Power of Attorney and survey plan)

Pictures of My paintings (Artworks)

My late father's house and land properties (I explained I inherited them and I showed his death certificate)

2] No need to waste your money to hire agents as all what you need is in your "sokoto" here.

My timeline:

Route--Paper route

Submission--Oct 4 2019

Medical test request-Nov 1 2019

Medical completed Nov 12 2019

Medical Passed Nov 15 2019

BVL- Nov 20 2019

Approval Nov 26 2019

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED:

My Introduction letter

Wife introduction letter

Salary statement of account

Family company documents

Children Birth certificates

Marriage certificate

Pension Statement of account

Insurance premium

Recent Promotion letter (husband and Wife)

Id cards

Training certificates

Commendation letters from my Boss

Property documents

Lovely SOP-3 pages

School--Windsor university winter 2020

****I finished from Madonna University ****

3] Timeline:

Online application: 18th August, 2019

Biometrics done: 20th August, 2019

Medical request: 2nd October, 2019

Medicals done: 10th October, 2019

Medicals passed: 15th October, 2019

Approval and BVL came together on 18th October

Documents:

All IMM forms

Sponsors documents: (Statement of Account)

Company papers (1 had no tax clearance so I didn't include tax clearance for all)

Letter of sponsorship (didn't include affidavit)

Landed property

Picture to show relationship (husband's aunt, also my godmother)

Mine: (6 months Statement of Account)

All academic credentials and transcripts (BSc industrial design and MBA)

Acceptance letter from Conestoga College

Employment letter

6 months' pay slips

Birth certificate

International passport (old n new)

Supporting documents:

Marriage certificate

Birth certificate of hubby and 2 kids

Police clearance certificate

Hubby consent letter

Story:

Admission was gotten through an agent, long story. We Nigerians just like easy way out. Anyways, it got to the point of paying deposit and the agent started saying she will confirm from d school the account number and get back to me. 3 days later, no response. I switched off my mumu button and followed the steps through the school website and paid through flywire (the agent now refers their clients to me for assistance). There and then, we decided I was gonna apply for the visa myself.

4] I waited endlessly for approval that lasted for 13 months ignorantly

Here is a summary of the application details.

TRV: Study Permit

Route: Online

Mode: Company sponsored

Application Date: June 3, 2018

Biometrics: June 5, 2018

Eligibility Reviewed: June 13, 2019

Medical Done: June 28, 2019

Medical Passed: July 1, 2019

Approval: July 16, 2019

Passport dropped: July 17, 2019

Application Length: 13months

SPONSOR:

- *fixed deposit statement
- *statement of account
- *Affidavit of sponsor's support
- *Company's Leave approval letter
- *international passport of the CEO (Data page)
- * CAC documents
- *Memorandum and articles of association

CO-SPONSOR (Husband)

- *Official Documents (appointment letter, land, car documents etc.)
- * Proof of ties (Marriage certificate, newspaper publication, wedding pictures and media proof) etc.
- *Pension statement
- *Co-operative evidence

APPLICANTS:

All the documents we all know plus official documents like

Appointment letter

Confirmation letter

ID card

Affidavit etc.

LESSONS LEARNT:

i. Sometimes, God's delay is not God's denial;

Started sending webmail/emails to Lagos office from October 2018 but there was no response. At a point, I wasn't sure which office was treating the file, so I sent to London Office on Jan 12.2019. It was a relief as London office routed the mail to Lagos office as a "PROTECTED B" and we got an instant response barely 13hours later. Lagos office then replied thus "Your application has now been placed under active review". I continued

with monthly reminder and got responses in April and June that “it was still under processing”.

ii. Don't put all your eggs in this basket, let your life progress as you wait on God for this journey and don't make it a do-or-die matter:

We Married in Nov 2017, she got admission in March 2018 (barely 4 months after our marriage) but we lived on as normal couple and didn't bother to go on family planning because of this journey. She was pregnant before she applied but funny enough the application was neglected until the Baby finished his “Exclusive Breastfeeding” i.e. 6months old.

iii. Experience counts most times:

I had been worried on an application that was just taking forever with no update from the CIC until a day I read someone commented that application could last 12 months but So I decided to give it two more months before I would opt to cancel the application and perhaps re-apply. But just imagine, it was APPROVED the following month!

5] UBC admission: 28th August

Online Application: 18th Sept

Biometrics Request: 20th Sept

Biometrics Done: 26th Sept.

Medical Request: 16th Oct.

Medicals Done : 24th Oct. (IOM Lag)

Medicals Passed: 30th Oct.

First time applicant.

My passport was to expire 3 months into the winter term and of course, my Visa's validity if granted wouldn't be longer than March, so I had to wait for it to drop to 6 months, then I applied for passport renewal. I also got my police clearance certificate in September.

Took me not less than a week to write a one and a half pages of SOP. I kept editing and restructuring, adding and subtracting. My strategy was to weigh the pros n cons of each point I try to make. Any information that I weigh n perceive could be misinterpreted. For instance, my kids are part of my ties. The least is 2 years old. I felt the VO would wonder why a sane mother would want to leave her young child. At the same time, I felt the VO would also wonder how I would travel with a toddler given the intensity of my professional master's degree. I had to choose one side of the argument and gave solid reasons which sent a pointer to my determination to study and graduate with good grades while outlining adequate steps I've put in place for the welfare of the kids I'm leaving behind.

I also mentioned what I intend to do upon return and showed evidence of some tangible things I'd leave behind as a major fallback when I return. Each day I read my SOP, it made deeper meaning. I understood it differently and kept manipulating it until I was convinced that I had done noble. Worthy to mention is that I showed a career progression from my previous study and current work experience, to the intended program. Meanwhile, I attached an LOE to explain my previous US tourist Visa rejection, reason for not writing IELTS + correspondence from school confirming that IELTS would be waived if my University sends them a proof that I was taught in English, other source of income, family composition .

Meanwhile, I have a travel history (US)

Self-sponsorship

Employed with a meagre salary

Printed and submitted the tuition and cost of living page as seen on the school's website.

Statement of account (4 months)

fixed deposit

Reference letter from bank

Transcripts

Proof of English Proficiency from undergrad school

Letter from employer (recent)

Pay stubs (3months)

Survey plans of properties in my name

Birth certificates of kids

Hubby and dad's bio data page.

Picture of just the kids together with a minor ward.

Confirmation letter from UBC on deposit payment

Conditional letter of acceptance

Tuition Fee is to be paid in 3 instalments

SOP was straight to the point so as not to bore the VO or divulge unnecessary information that could be used against me. For each information I gave, I asked myself if it was necessary and directly related to my application. Then I moved to weighing the implication of every possible answer. I actually set up a law court in my head.

For me, preparing and sending in my application was like preparing for a life changing exam. I almost gave up because it was too much for just an application, but for the deposit I already made...I needed at least a rejection to get it back.

PS: I have an active Express Entry profile and didn't delete for the purpose of this application.

6] Approval Timeline: Approval at exactly 12 weeks of Application

Date Submitted: 18th June Paper application (1st Application)

Biometrics done: 18th June

Medical reading from : August 13th

Medical request: 28th August

Medicals done: 29th August at IOM Lagos

Medical passed: 5th September

BVL: 5th September

VFS pickup mail: 10th September, then I checked my account and it has been approved

Approval : 10th September

Letter of Introduction : September 11th but has September 10th date

Documents submitted:

All CIC forms

International passport bio data page

Digital Passport

Admission letter MA Linguistics (Memorial University)

Funding Letter from school which fully covers tuitions

Statement of Purpose

Waec result 2009 (no English and Maths)

Neco result (2013)

NCE Music/Yoruba language Result (2013)

B.A Linguistics Degree Result (2018)

Nysc certificate (2019)

Mandarin language level 1 certificate (2019)

Nysc PPA letter

My birth certificate

6 Siblings Birth certificates

Letter of sponsorship by dad

His Bank statement (35m balance)

I used my Parent and six siblings as my home ties

7] Timeline:

Date Submitted: 14th June Paper application

Biometrics done: 14th June

Medical request: 14th August

Medicals done: 22nd August at IOM Lagos

IOM sent me the delivery message on 30th August

BVL: 3rd September

Approval (Letter of Introduction): 7th September

VFS pickup mail: 9th September

I was unable to link it so I left the application like that not knowing what's up with it.

The days between 3rd and 7th September looked like the longest days of waiting in my life.

CIC no go give us high BP...

Docs submitted:

International passport bio data page

Digital Passport

Offer letter from school. (Bishop university- MSc Computer science)

All CIC forms:

Letter of sponsorship by mum

Affidavit of Sponsor.

Mum's passport data page

Her Bank statement (14m balance)

Client Information Section:

WAEC Certificate

Transcript of Academic records

BSc Certificate

Statement of Purpose

Birth Certificate

My residential permit copies while I was studying n living in Ukraine

My UK visa pages along with my entries and exits into the country

My other entry and exit into ivory coast was included too.

I wasn't employed as I was still doing my NYSC and didn't submit any nysc stuff.

In term of family ties, I included my mum and my sister who is a doctor here in Nigeria.

8] Visa Approval after 19 weeks of application

Online route:

Applied February 18, 2019

Biometrics wasn't required as I had previously applied in 2015

Background completed February 18, 2019

Eligibility started May 6, 2019

Eligibility passed May 6, 2019

Medical request mail May 6, 2019

Medical done May 28, 2019

(I was in the Netherlands when the mail dropped, I had the option to go for my medical examination in Amsterdam but the Ijebu in me will not let me, when I called Amsterdam I was told it will cost me 300euros. The price made me humbly call IOM in Ikeja and I booked for 42k approximately 100euros)

Medical Passed May 31, 2019

I sent Kenya an email @ 7am June 11, 2019 to inquire about my application, I complained that I passed my medicals 2 weeks ago and I hadn't gotten an update since.

"Application approved, Passport request" @ 10am June 11, 2019

Submitted passport same day June 11, 2019

Passport delivered & stamped June 27, 2019

My story began in 2013 as I had just graduated and my plan was to go to Canada the next fall 2014. I obviously wasn't ready at that time as I didn't even know what documents to

submit. Two years on and I had read & learnt so many things in that period. I was very confident and ready to apply or so I thought, I was confident of my preparation and documents, I was cocky. I applied in June, 2015 and the wait started, I was running my mouth up and down and in August I was denied. It was a huge blow "I never expected it" (This CIC people know how to humble person), there was no motivation anymore.

I ordered my gcms note, it came a month later and the reasons were lame but I already had other commitments at that time so I didn't reapply but keep myself updated.

2019 was going to be my year, I was ready. I had done my homework, I worked harder on the arrangement of my documents. I made my application easier to understand, I labelled documents when they weren't clear enough or if it was going to make my application complicated, my SOP was 2 pages long but it was detailed.

My profile:

Bachelor of Architecture

Applied for construction project management

Fanshawe College fall 2019

Documents submitted:

CIC Documents

- IMM 5257B (Application for Temporary Residence)
- IMM 1294E (Application for Study Permit Made Outside Of Canada)
- IMM 5645E (Family Information)

2 page detailed and precise SOP explaining purpose of visit, and home ties

Academic Documents

1. Admission letter
2. Degree certificate
3. Academic transcript
4. WAEC Certificate

5. Publication on housing deficit in Nigeria

Employment Documents

1. Employment letter
2. Pay slips
3. Letter of Introduction
4. Letter of promotion
5. Updated resume

Home ties

1. Proof as a board member of a company.
2. Proof as a first son and what it means for my family's business.

Sponsor's documents: Sponsor - My dad

1. International Passport
2. Statement of account
3. Letter of sponsorship
4. CAC of his business
5. Landed documents

Personal documents:

1. Data page of international passport & visa pages for travel history
2. Birth Certificate
3. Statement of purpose (although 2 pages, I addressed the vagueness of my first application by being precise and straight forward)

9] So contrary to popular opinion that one cannot get visas for family while still in Nigeria, I decided to apply. I started preparing for the application immediately I submitted mine. First, we valued our property (about 12 million), we also booked upfront medicals. Fortunately my visa came before the date given.

So I got my study visa May 7th. And I used these documents from me:

My approval letter

My passport showing visa

My previous passport

My admission letter

Funding letter (showing I have over the required 10k cad for personal living expenses, apart from tuition)

Letter of invitation. I explained several subtopics *relationship history *why swop and visit visa for daughter (daughter is less than 2 years) *funding and budget * husband work expertise and designation *purpose of visit (to join mum for PhD)

I realized that unlike study permit application which is quite objective, spouse open work permit and family sponsorship application can be very subjective. (I wrote the sop in a way that I appealed to the compassionate side of the VOs). I particularly capitalized on the fact that I don't want to leave my baby for 4 years +, nor my husband.

Marriage documents:

Marriage certificate

Change of name

Newspaper publications

For my husband:

A letter of introduction introducing him and his relationship with me, his work designation (he's an engineer). He talked a lot about his work achievements etc. since it's a work permit application

Introduction letter from work

Appointment letter

Confirmation letter

Id card

Pay slips

Home tie:

Property receipts

Property document

Valuation

His Pension fund account. (Just about 1million plus)

Financial part:

My husband had a million plus in his account. His father had earlier sent to him 1 million, 6 weeks before we applied. (We explained it in our letters).

My mum gave us one of her fixed deposit monies (2 million). We included the fixed deposit certificate to show it has been fixed for 3 months and I stated in my letter the day it was terminated and sent to my account. It was sent just 2 days before I applied but I made sure I showed it has been fixed for a long time and thus, it's available.

So basically our funds consisted entirely of 2 lump sums but it was explained with proof.

We included our parents ID cards, passport, sponsorship letter from them, and employment /retirement letter. We also included our birth certificates to prove paternity.

Daughter:

Her birth certificate

Her immunization report

Little things like her church dedication certificate bearing our names.

We included photographs but vfs did not allow us to submit it. I later submitted it via webform.

We submitted May 14 exactly a week after I got my temporary residence visa

May 23, medicals was passed

June 17 BVL came in for my husband

June 27 approval for them both.

My daughter was even given 5 years visa. More than my 4 years program.

10] Below is my timeline.

Online Application (2nd Application)

Submitted May 9th (10:57pm)

Upfront medicals passed on 11th June

Correspondence letter (today by 10:12am)

Original passport request (today by 10:32am)

So exactly a year today 20th June 2018, I submitted a paper route application and It was refused within 4weeks based on family ties, purpose of visit , personal assets and financial assets. Meanwhile, I have a Bsc in Biochemistry with overall CGPA 4.15 and last two year CGPA 4.71, going for 2year diploma, paid tuition fee \$8,880cad.

when I received my refusal letter, I cried that very day like never before and till date my first refusal date 18th July, 2018 still remains the worst day of my life, and the agent my parents used was just after money. After crying, knowing how badly I needed to leave this country I woke from my comfort zone.

Through this wonderful platform I met an angel in human form who took his time to explain the errors in my application starting from advising me to secure a masters admission and that is nearly impossible to convince a VO on why diploma and not masters considering my high Gp, and secondly that my application is as empty as anything, I didn't even submit my family's information, no assets declared, no employment evidence and so on.

Someone shared about him securing a masters admission with funding, I chat him to put me through, and that was how I realized the vital information missing out in my application and the reasons behind my refusals regardless of my high scores. And today am glad that my final attempt landed me a full funded scholarship worth \$38,076CAD at BROCK UNIVERSITY ONTARIO, 2 years MSc in Biotechnology. I nearly craze that day (April 18th, 2019) NB: the scholarship covers my tuition and living expenses with extra left, I was also guaranteed a graduate assistantship position. Isn't God great? This was when I realized that God was preparing something greater for me. Seriously my sleep tonight will be very special after one year of dreaming of CANADA.

Below are the list of documents I submitted with my application:

Father sponsor:

All CIC Forms

My Passport Data Page

Digital Passport

Upfront Medicals

Client Information:

- LOE
- SOP
- CV
- A reference letter from my supervisor
- Degree Certificate
- Degree Transcripts
- NYSC Posting letter
- NYSC Certificate
- My birth certificate
- WAEC result
- Employment letter (signed by my employer)
- Study leave approval letter (signed by my employer)
- work ID CARD

- police clearance certificate
- Picture with my parents
- HSSE professional Certificate (levels 1,2 and 3)
- social club reference letter
- Deed of Gift of a four story building with a penthouse on top from Dad(Drafted by a senior advocate of Nigeria), I did the deed of gift before my application but it was back dated!
- My parent's marriage certificate
- My family 25th marriage silver jubilee calendar as far back as 2008. (Showing a portrait of all my siblings and my parents in the center) I was only 12years old then but I added it because we don't have family picture.
- Siblings birth certificate
- Reference letter from my dad company stating I am one of the directors of his company existing for more than 30years now.
- My ID CARD showing am a director

PROOF OF MEANS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

- My full funding unconditional acceptance letter
- Affidavit of sponsorship (signed by Dad and notary public)
- Letter of sponsorship (signed by Dad)
- Board of resolution letter
- Dad's international passport data page
- Dad's Statement of account (Bal: #113,000,000 inflow- 440M outflow-375M)
- My Personal savings acc. About eight something!
- My Dom account statement (I explained that regardless of my full funding, my father transferred the sum of \$10,000Cad for my flight itinerary and other miscellaneous expenses that might rise)
- Dad's CAC
- Dad's company particulars of directors (showing my name as one of the directors)
- Dad's company memorandum of association
- Proof of his company shares in all my siblings name and also my mum
- Dad's landed property, evaluation report and survey plan(I included two building, one rented and one personal building), and three empty lands under construction)

Even though I know my application is a little bit tight, I still handed it over to God, I prayed against bad mood on the head of the VO handling my application.

11] 1st Application

Applied: 27th April

Biometrics: 9th May

Refused: 15th May

Reasons: Purpose of visit, length of proposed stay, financial and personal assets and current employment situation.

Docs Submitted: Sponsor SOA (Salary Acct 30+M, dorm account \$120+k),

Sponsor letter and letter from sponsor's employer. NO SOP.

2nd Application:

Applied: 3rd October

Biometrics: 9th October

Med Call: 28th November

Med Done: 3rd December

Passport Request: 8th December. Docs Submitted:

*Sponsor SOA for 6months (salary acct. 40+M, dorm acct \$120+K)

*Sponsor letter and letter from sponsor's employer

*My four months SOA (500+K)

*Letter of introduction and study leave letters from my employer

*SOP (clearly detailing why I chose to study in Canada and at the University of Regina and my plans to return to Naija upon graduation. This is all. Note that none of my documents were notarized. If someone agrees to sponsor you and puts it in writing with his contact details clearly stated I see no reason for all that.

Sponsor meanwhile is my maternal uncle with different surname.

12] Applied online 23rd Sept

Biometrics 24th October

Medical 12th Nov

Passport dropped 20th Nov

Passport collected 26th Nov

I submitted:

*SOP

*Travel doc (virgin passport)

*Birth certificate

*CV

*NYSC

*Certificates

*LOA

*Transcript

*WAEC

*Employment letter

*Letter of introduction from my employer

*Study leave letter

*Police clearance

Sponsor (dad):

*Employment/retirement letter

*Travel doc

*Pension letter

*Bank intro letter

*Fixed deposit account

*6 month statement of account

*Landed properties

*Notarized letter of sponsorship

*Shares cert

13] 1st ONLINE Application: APRIL 30TH

BIOMETRIC MAY 2ND

DELAYED MAY 16TH

I was so pained but I did not give up rearranged my documents and re-fired back

2ND Application JUNE 17TH

PAPER ROUTE

BIOMETRIC same day

MEDICALS REQUEST AUG 4TH

MEDICALS on AUG 6TH

STUDY PERMIT APPROVED AUG 15TH

PASSPORT PICKED UP AUG 26TH

Here are the list of docs I submitted for my TRV application.

Sponsor is my Mum:

1. 6 months bank statements (opening balance 3.5million, closing balance 6million, Savings Account)
2. Sponsorship declaration
3. Sworn affidavit of support
4. Shares statement of account and letter of introduction from the investment company (in my name)
5. Letter of Introduction
6. Tuition/acceptance/ payment receipt for 1year
7. My Birth Certificate
8. Police report
9. University Transcript
10. WAEC Certificate
11. NYSC certificate
14. Letter of Intent

14] Application details:

Applied (online) - Aug 13

Biometrics- Aug 14

Call for medicals- Oct 7

Medicals done (Asaju) - Oct 8

Passport request - Oct 16

Passport dropped- Oct 17

Passport collected with TRV-Oct 21

Docs submitted:

ACCEPTANCE LETTER section contains –

Letter of Admission with fee schedule

NYSC Cert

BSc cert

BSc transcript

WAEC cert

PROOF OF FINANCE-

Letter of support from sponsor (uncle)

Sworn affidavit of sponsorship

Letter of introduction of sponsor from his place of work

His letter of appointment and ID card

Pay slip (6 months)

SOA (6 months) with 9m balance

Letter of introduction from my place of work

Appointment letter

Confirmation of appointment

Study leave approval letter

Id card

Pay slips (4 months)

My SOA- 150k

NPC birth cert

A picture showing his family and me

His passport and previous visas

His Landed property

IMM1294E, IMM5645E

Digital passport

International passport

LETTER OF EXPLANATION:

Sop

Visit Visa

List of Support Documents submitted;

1. Principal Applicant (Myself)

A) Marriage Certificate

B) Itinerary, Travel - copies of our flight reservation, hotel booking for 10 days

C) Proof of Income -

I. Original letter from company stating position current salary and date of hire

II. Payslip

III. Income tax returns for the last 2 years

IV. Tax Clearance Card

V. Pension Statement

VI. Treasury Bill certificate i.e. N8M

VII. CSCS Statement

D) Proof of means of Financial Support

I. Bank Statements for 4 months with Balance of over N7M

II. Pay slip

E) Past or Travel Documents - Visa page - UK, USA (Valid visas)

Copies of entry & exit stamps

Clear copy of USA visa page copies & original boarding pass of all our trips

F) Employment reference Letter -

Reference letter from Employment stating specific period of employment with the company showing full details of main responsibilities, total annual salary plus benefits

Signature of the HR officer and business card of the person signing.

G} others - Professional certificate, hotel receipts and shopping of our summer visit to USA & Dubai.

Wife & 3 kids - photocopies of valid & Expired UK,USA & Dubai visas

- School fee receipts for children

- Birth Certificate of children - last school result for my daughters

Timeline –

Submitted on 16th September 2014

Approved 23/10/2014 = 28 days minus 3 public holiday between = 25 working days

15] I was delayed in July for the following reasons:

Insufficient funds

Purpose of visit

Travel history

Home-tie length of proposed stay in Canada

Current employment situation (I did not include my employment letter)

I suspected the Visa Officer did not actually see the savings account of my sponsor (which was just a 2 page online printout) because I submitted two accounts (salary and savings) hence did not bother telling him to beef up his account

Here are the docs I submitted for the second application (those marked with star where not included in my first application)

Statement of account of sponsor

(Savings: opening bal: £11,400 closing: £20, 000, 00; salary: £3,000.00)

Letter from bank stating his savings balance

*Letter of Intro from his company

*6 months' pay slip

Sponsors international passport and work permit

*Sponsors birth certificate

*Sponsors landed properties in Nigeria (deed of agreement)

Admission letter

First semester school fees

University statement of result

WAEC result

Advanced diploma in telecoms certificate from TTC Mobile (RF/GSM/Transmission engineering, Network management)

Letter of recommendation from TTC Mobile (did 6 months internship)

Java certificate Salesmanship and customer service

Certificate (from an affiliate of Harvard business school)

NYSC certificate

*Employment letter

*Letter of intro from employer

*2 months' pays lip

My statement of account (Opening bal: 1.5M; closing bal: 400K)

CSCS statement

3 page SOP

*Mothers national ID card

*Siblings driver's license or International passport

16] Here it goes:

I made my submission online and my application was opened on the 10th of October

I did my biometrics on the 20th of October

Waited patiently for an endless 7 weeks before I got invited for medicals by 9th of December.

I did my medicals upfront on the 12th of October

Then I waited another anxious 11 days before my medicals status showed passed and my passport was requested. Both on the 23rd of December.

My application was closed on the 24th of December.

From open to close, my application process took well over 2 months.

I submitted the following:

Proof of means of financial Support

Sponsor's letter of consent to sponsorship addressed to Visa Officer (This was printed on his Company letterhead, signed, but not notarized - Sponsor is my dad)

Sponsor's CAC papers (the ones I could get and that were still valid)

Sponsor's bank reference letter addressed to the Canadian Embassy asserting his credibility

Sponsor's business and personal SOAs showing 6 months history

Residential address land documents registered in sponsor's name

Uni of Ottawa fee invoice and telex copies of payment made with respect to the invoice

(I used document separators. The VO probably appreciated that because the SOAs were 3 in number and all from the same bank; so demarcating the docs was good for clarity)

Letter of Explanation:

Letter of explanation addressed to Visa Officer, explaining the important issues of my application in simple and concise words. A single page did it for me.

Police clearance certificate used in first application

Letter of employment, pay slips and salary account SOA showing 6-months history

NYSC cert, birth cert, professional certificates

(I forgot to include my resume/CV)

Letter of Acceptance:

Admission offer letter

Offer acceptance

Email from Uni of Ottawa confirming enrolment into winter session

Alma-mater B.Sc certificate and SSCE certificates

Passport pages

Bio data page

Pages with visas and stamps

17] A) CIC Forms For me:

1. Application for Study permit made outside of Canada
2. Passport Photograph
3. Family info form
4. Data page and visa pages (UAE, Kenya, Germany and France)
5. Upfront Medical Report from Children Practice
6. Police Report
7. Use of a family member representative for online applications

For my daughter:

8. Application for Visitor Visa made out of Canada
9. Data page and all visa pages
10. Passport Photograph

B. Letter of Acceptance:

1. Acceptance Letter with funding of \$9,000.
2. Evidence of campus accommodation application (Family Housing)
3. SSCE result
4. Transcript
5. BSC Certificate
6. Birth Certificate
7. Marriage Certificate
8. Affidavit of change of name
9. Newspaper publication of change of name

C. Proof of Funds

From Sponsor 1- Uncle (My Sponsor)

1. Sponsor's personal 4 months SOA with a balance of USD256, 000
2. Letter of Sponsorship
3. Registration documents (Certificate of company registration and compliance with professional body and particulars of directors of the company)
4. Passport data page
5. All visa and stamped pages

From Sponsor 2-Hubby (my daughter's sponsor)

1. Survey document for his property
2. Evidence of Application for C of O with Lagos State Govt
3. Approval of allocation from Lagos State Govt
4. Valuation certificate for the house worth N22 million
5. Sponsor's personal 1 year SOA (turnover of 20m and balance of 4.5m)
6. Company 1 year SOA (turnover of 24m and balance of N 500k)-BANK 1
7. Company 1 year SOA (turnover of 25m and balance of 1.5m)-BANK 2
8. Letter of Sponsorship (notarized)
9. Business Registration Docs (Company 1)
10. Certificate of Incorporation and CAC 7 (Company 2)-I am a director here, so it should also serve as another home tie for me
11. Passport data page and all visa pages

From me

1. Letters of Employment (from the 2 major Companies I have worked for)
2. All Letters of Promotion (received from both companies)
3. Current Company ID Card
4. Personal 4 months SOA (total credits of N 3,500,000 and closing balance of N809,000)

5. 4 month Pay slip
6. Pension Statement (balance of N 1,622,000)
7. Copy of stamped National Housing Fund contribution (NHF) passbook (balance of N 100,000)
8. Tax Clearance Card

D. Letter of Explanation/Supporting Documents:

1. A well written Statement of Purpose
2. Certificate of membership of Association of Economists and Statisticians of Nigeria (Full Member)
3. Excel sheet showing the budget for the year for My daughter and I
4. Email from the school informing me that I can only pay tuition starting from July
5. Resume
6. NYSC Certificate
7. Certificates of trainings attended
8. Family Picture
9. Proof of donations to UNICEF-to support my passion for economic development (which is related to my course)
10. Daughter's birth Certificate
11. Daughter's Notification of Birth
12. Consent letter from my hubby to allow me travel with my daughter
13. Application to Child Care providers in Winnipeg (including University of Winnipeg Day Care)

Note: My sponsor stated in his sponsorship letter that he promised to fund my master's degree in any Uni of my choice when he learnt that I graduated one of the best in my Uni and that he will make available to me a minimum of N6m which is about USD30k (my total expenses plus flight is about N4.9m).

My daughter's total expenses plus flight is about N1.9m compared to the N4.5m in hubby's personal account

18] Docs submitted below:

- All CIC forms.
- Acceptance letter (conditional) with full tuition and stipend from U of T.
- Form showing acceptance of admission.
- A transcript request form which I submitted to my undergrad university (This was to show that I could satisfy the conditions on my acceptance letter).
- Documents I printed from the U of T website showing my tuition fee schedule and the duration of my program. (I read somewhere that these should be stated in my letter of acceptance, but since my acceptance letter didn't have them, I printed these out).

- Sponsorship letter from my elder sister.
- Her account statements of about 2M.
- Her pay slips, work ID card and birth certificate.
- Travel grant scholarship letter gotten from a foundation here in Nigeria.
- Documents of 2 cars and a plot of land owned by my parents.

- 2014 NYSC Call up letter.
- NYSC posting letter.
- Reference letter from my HOD at my PPA.
- NYSC ID Card and NYSC salary statement of account.
- My savings statement of account, about 100k.

- BSc certificate and transcript.
- Certificate of awards received during undergrad.
- WAEC certificate.

-Data pages of my current and previous international passports, and other pages showing my valid US visa, two expired UK visas. I've been to the US, UK and a couple of African countries.

Letter of Explanation: stating my career progression and future ambitions.

-Letter of consent from my parents.

-International passport data pages of my parents and birth certificates of my other sisters.

-My birth certificate.

-My Resume.

-Police Character Certificate.

-E-medical information sheet from The Children's Practice and The Consultants Practice.

Applied online - May 14

Biometrics - May 19

Passport request - July 14

I didn't get any update of 'medicals review in progress'. So to all online applicants that did upfront medicals, please keep in mind that you might not receive that.

19] Paper route:

June 12

Upfront medicals

Concordia Univ Montreal, M.Eng

Approval email July 15

Docs submitted -

All CIC forms for 3 of us (my hubby applied for open work permit)

For Me:

Academic qualifications -

- *Offer and admission letter from school

- *transcript for BSc

- *BSc certs

- *merit awards

- *Professional qualifications

Proof of employment

- *offer letter past and current employer

- *copy of ID card

- *pay slips for 6 Months

- *pension statements for current and past employer

- *letter of future employment (conditional offer & introductory letter)

For my hubby

- *employment details - offer and introductory letter, pay slips, pension statement

- *copy of work ID

- *police report Nigeria & UK

- *professional qualification

- *BSc cert

- * MSC cert and transcript from the UK

For my son

- *school letter granting him leave of absence

- *school transcript

- *email correspondence stating he can't be admitted into school in Montreal until we arrive.

Financial docs:

- *Statement of Account for me
- *Statement of Account for hubby
- *CSCS statement (joint acct hubby & I)
- * Fixed deposit cert from me
- *receipt from school for part fees
- *letter from bank for statement of account for hubby and I

Other docs:

- *birth cert for 3 of us
- *police report for hubby and I
- *upfront medicals for 3 of us
- *data page for 3 of us
- *visa pages for hubby and I
- *car docs
- *truck docs
- *marriage cert
- *pictures of the family, son's school pics etc.
- *valuation of property and land
- *lease agreement of our truck
- *copies of our health insurance for 3 of us
- *INEC card for hubby and I

My B.Sc was in Comp Sc. & .I.T. while the M.Eng is in Info Security.

20] Paper route:

Niagara College

Submitted on 12 may

Bio metrics 12 may

Medicals 22 June

International business mgmt. post graduate certificate

I studied b.sc business administration

Documents submitted: Self

Offer letter

Official school receipt of part of 70% payment and telex copy

Transcripts

B.sc certificate

NYSC certificate

WAEC and NECO result

Computer certificate program

International passport

Birth certificate

Police clearance

Bank statement

Employment letter

Work ID card

Letter of reference from work

Study leave stating duration of my leave

Sponsor (Mother): (Retired and also in business)

Notification of retirement

Statement of account closing balance 2M and fixed deposit 3M

2 landed property valued at 30M by lag state government

Letter on introduction

Letter of sponsorship

Notarized affidavit

Passport data page

Land use receipts on both properties

Pension ID card

Receipt issued to tenants showing 2.5M yearly income on rents

College; Niagara college 1yr graduate certificate program

21] Completed and signed IMM1294E and IMM5645E forms.

Proof of Acceptance:

1. Acceptance Letter from Humber College, Canada.
2. Statement of result
3. Transcripts
4. NYSC Certificate
5. SAP Global Certificates
6. WAEC Result
7. Birth Certificate
8. My Resume

Proof of Identity:

1. Data page of international passport
2. Dubai Visa stamped page
3. Passport photograph

Proof of Financial Support:

1. Sponsorship Letter from my father
2. Sponsor's Statement of Account N10, 973,713.18 (\$68,460CAD)
3. Corporate Affairs Commission's certificate of his company
4. Receipts of Printing Press Machine

5. Shares Certificate
6. Deed of Agreement
7. Declaration of sponsorship
8. My Employment letter
9. My Confirmation Letter
10. My Statement of Account with balance of N570, 910.14 (\$3,560CAD)
11. 3 months' Payslip
12. Letter of Introduction
13. Approval letter for study leave

Letter of Explanation:

1. Letter of Explanation

22] CIC documents:

- IMM1294E and IMM5645E forms

Academic documents:

- Letter of Acceptance from Simon Fraser University
- Letter of Internship (Practicum) requirement for intended course of study from Simon Fraser University
- Bachelor's Degree Certificate and Transcript
- WAEC result

Financial/Sponsor's documents:

- 6 months Statement of Account (Salary account)
- Retirement Savings Account (Pension plan) Statement
- Fixed Deposit (that will mature just in time to pay my school fees)
- Email message from Simon Fraser Uni that shows I can't pay my tuition until a stipulated time

- Receipt of Acceptance deposit (\$250CAD) paid to Simon Fraser University (Email Message)
- Letter of Introduction from Sponsor's employer, 5 months' Payslips and ID Card
- Sponsor's Contract Appointment Letters
- Sponsor's passport data page and visa pages (expired since 2011)
- Letter and Affidavit of Sponsorship stating the money in the fixed deposit is for my education
- Land/Street ownership documents: Survey plans, purchase receipts and C of O processing papers
- Receipts from Rent of Properties

Other documents:

- Data page of passport
- Passport photograph
- eMedical form – Upfront medical examination
- NYSC Discharge Certificate
- Introduction Letter as a Voluntary HIV/AIDS Peer Educator
- Letter of recommendation from Principal of schools I visited for awareness
- CV
- Birth Certificate
- State of origin certificate
- Vocational skills certificates
- Letter of explanation (LOE/SOP)

Finished NYSC Oct 2014, not employed. I believe you can use whatever you have to your advantage, so I used my voluntary/community development activities to cover up the small gap (HIV and Malaria awareness, I organize and give free vocational training etc.)

I included CV, incase VO does not take time to read my detailed LOE, CV is straightforward and highlighted my activities.

23] FIRST APPLICATION

19th February

Biometric; same day (paper route)

Refused - 24th March

Reason> Insufficient fund to pay for tuition and maintain yourself without working in Canada

DOCS SUBMITTED:

Sponsor's Docs (my Uncle with same surname)

Sponsorship letter and affidavit of support

SOA - Salary Account with closing balance of 26.9M

Dorm account with closing balance of 30,000USD

6 months e-pay slips

2 Certificates of Occupancy worth 10M and 5M respectively (Photocopies, not notarizes)

Scanned Company ID Card

Scanned Intl passport data page

Recent promotion letter

My sponsor paid in 20,000USD into my dorm account and stated in his sponsorship letter that the money will defray my tuition and general up keep.

My cousin is a Permanent Resident in Canada and his wife is a Canadian so they availed me with,

Sponsorship Support Letter signed by him and his wife

His Permanent Resident Card

Data page of their international passports

His Driving license

Their marriage certificate

No Statement of Account

MY DOCUMENTS:

NSCC LOA

Statement of account with closing balance of 20,000USD (printed from my mail and submitted with no bank stamps on it)

Both Sec School Transcript and Uni Transcript: BSc Cert, WAEC Cert

Certificate of Origin

Birth Certificate

Police Clearance Certificate

Scanned Nysc ID card

SOP

Fund available for stay in the CIC form I filled 8,000CAD

SECOND APPLICATION:

24th April 2015

Biometric: Same day (paper route)

Medical Mail: 13th June

TRV Approved: 24th June

Passport: Virgin

DOCS SUBMITTED:

Sponsor's Docs (Uncle with Same surname)

Sponsorship letter and affidavit of support

4 months SOA<Salary Account with closing balance of 26.9M

4 months Dorm account of 30,000USD (same bank-)

6 Months Current Account Of 2m (same bank)

6 Months Savings Account Of 2m (diff bank)

6 months e-pay slips

TWO NOTARIZED Certificates of Occupancy worth 10M and 5M respectively

Tax Clearance Certificate

Scanned Company ID Card

Scanned Intl passport data page

Recent promotion letter

PAID ADDITIONAL 5,000USD making it 25,000USD into my dorm account and stated in his sponsorship letter that the money is just for my maintenance alone and that the tuition, accommodation and transportation payment will be made from his own account.

My cousin is a Permanent Resident in Canada and his wife is a Canadian so they availed me with:

Sponsorship Support Letter signed by him and his wife

His Permanent Resident Card

Data page of their international passports

His Driving license

Their marriage certificate

He owns a company in Canada so he gave me his company documents

No Statement of Account

MY DOCUMENTS:

Refusal letter

NSCC LOA

SOA with closing balance of 25,000USD (Printed From the Bank with Stamps On It)

BSc Cert

WAEC Cert

Certificate of Origin

Birth Certificate

Police clearance certificate.

Scanned Nysc ID card

SOP

Fund available for my stay in the CIC form I filled 25,000USD

Am still serving and I should be ending by October and school starts September.

24] Visa Approval after 16 weeks of application

Online route:

Applied March 12, 2018

Biometrics done March 16, 2018

Medical request mail May 1, 2018

Medical done May 3, 2018

Medical Passed May 6, 2018

Filled the webform to inquire about my application; June 11, 2018

I got response June 26, 2018

Application approved, Passport requested and submitted June 27, 2018

My profile;

BSc Agricultural Economics and Extension (First class)

Landmark University (2016)

Applied for MSc. Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics

University of Manitoba

Documents submitted

CIC Documents

- IMM 5257B (Application for Temporary Residence)
- IMM 1294E (Application for Study Permit Made Outside Of Canada)
- IMM 5645E (Family Information)

7 page well-crafted SOP explaining purpose of visit, finance and home ties

Academic Documents

1. Admission letter
2. Degree certificate
3. Certificate of academic excellence
4. Agro-revolution vision driven certificate
5. Academic transcript
6. WAEC Certificate
7. Primary School Leaving Certificate

Employment Documents

1. Employment letter
2. Work ID Card
3. Letter of Introduction
4. CAC and NEPC certificate of my place of work
5. Updated CV
6. Salary account with balance of N546, 301

Home ties

1. My agribusiness company (CAC certificate, tax registration, Local purchase order, memorandum of association, company profile)
2. Two landed documents of my father (Certificate of occupancy, deed of agreements, survey plans, purchase agreement and survey plans).
3. Family pictures (Father, mother, me and my other siblings (3)

Finance

Sponsor; My dad and myself

Expenses; \$11,600 (tuition), \$10,000 (living expenses), \$6,000 (accommodation), \$4,000 (miscellaneous); Total expenses = \$31,600

Source of funds;

I got scholarship worth \$5400(IGES), \$3,000 (deposit paid), \$1,951 Personal savings.

Dad used two accounts; 21million plus and 2 Million plus (total debit of 24M and Credit of 26M)

He made a commitment of 7.5M in the letter of sponsorship

Sponsorship Declaration and Affidavit of sponsorship

Sponsor's documents

1. International Passport
2. Employment letter since 2005
3. Promotion letter (2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)
4. 7 months' pay slip
5. Salary account statements
5. CAC of consulting firm
6. CAC of family business
7. Pension account statement
8. Letter of introduction from his workplace
9. Landed documents

Other documents

1. NYSC Discharge certificate
2. NYSC ID Card
3. Birth Certificate
4. State of origin
5. Proof of previous financial support (undergraduate receipt)
6. Police character certificate
7. Voluntary and personal development achievements to show that I engage in extracurricular activities; leadership summit and training (certificate of participation)

NOTE: I ensured I used Microsoft word to hyperlinked every scanned documents so the visa officer can easily access it.

Ilovepdf.com to compress my documents from 20MB to 3.9MB

25] My Timeline

Applied with upfront medicals – April 14th

Medical Request – May 6th (I was surprised when I got this medical request because I did upfront medicals, so I was wondering why they were still telling me to do medicals). I sent a web form with my e-medical slip attached and I also sent emails to Lagos, London, and Kenya.

On May 7th (the day after receiving upfront medicals), I went to the hospital to see the doctor who attended to me and doctor told me that he sent IRCC a message to link my upfront medical ID to my medical request ID.

Medicals passed – May 8th

Correspondence letter and Passport request – May 9th

Overall, my study permit took less than a month to be approved! Specifically, it took 25 days!

Things I believe that worked in my favor

1. The Grace of God that covered all my errors and colored all my efforts.
2. My resumption date (June 17th). I sort of feel that they give priority to people with nearer resumption dates. If you look at the timeline we have, you'd all notice that people resuming closer tend to get their decisions quickly – this does not mean that you should intentionally delay your application. At the end of the day, no one really knows the minds of these VO's.
3. I have a strong international travel history (USA, UK, Brazil, South Africa, etc)
4. I made my submissions as organized as possible. Infact, I did a table of content for each pdf I merged so that whoever was working on my application would easily understand it.
5. I explained all lump sums with proof... (Sometimes, I see people saying things like “they’ll increase the money in their account from 5 million to 10 million” and I feel this raises eyebrows as it would question whether those funds are really available to the applicant.
6. I wrote a banging SOP... details below
7. I was truthful in my application. I have like 5 half-siblings (one living in the US and one living in the UK). I mentioned all of them in my family information form even though I was

scared that it could potentially weaken my home ties.

Things I believe were the weak points of my application and how I addressed them

1. This was what I perceived to be the main weakness of my application. I was using student loans as proof of funds for my tuition. Mind you, these loans were from a reputable and internationally recognized company called Prodigy Finance. I addressed this perceived weakness by using a sponsor who was financially capable of paying off all my loans (even though most of her asset were illiquid (land and truck). Also, I believe I was able to show a strong academic and professional track record that indicated that I was financially capable of personally paying off the loans on an installment basis.
2. The name of my sponsor across all her documents was not consistent because she is a divorcee. I addressed this by submitting an affidavit of change of name with a newspaper publication

My advice

The truth is that you have to do the hard work yourself... Even though you can easily get guidance here, you still have a lot of homework to do yourself... Understand your profile – its weakness and its strengths and address them.

Documents I submitted

CAQ (Mandatory for students schooling in Quebec)

CIC Forms

Digital Photo

My passport showing all previous visas and stamps

Proof of upfront medical exam

Evidence of work requirement in study (my program comes with co-op)

Letter of Acceptance (Unconditional – though I sent the conditional one via a web form. I also begged them to process my application speedily considering my close resumption.

However, my web form was never acknowledged). The other documents I merged with my Letter of Acceptance includes; acceptance deposit receipt, academic qualification documents (such as my certificate, transcript, WAEC certificate), professional qualification documents

(such as my CFA level 1 badge, letter of introduction from current employer, my bio page on my company's website, work ID, and letters of employment from internships I had done in the past), then other documents (such as my NYSC certificate and my birth certificate).

Proof of financial support –

Prodigy Finance loan of about CAD 36k (30K for school fees and 6k for living expenses)

Paid acceptance deposit of CAD 5K

Scholarship of CAD 8.5K

Dorm account statement with living expenses of CAD 11K

These were the funds that were budgeted for my studies.

Apart from the aforementioned, I had about NGN 1m in stocks, NGN 100k naira in T-bills, NGN 250k in RSA, and NGN 70K in my salary account – all of which I showed.

In addition, my sponsor (who was my mother) also had NGN 1.9m in her account

NGN 5m in T-bills and NGN 4 m in RSA.

I also showed my sponsors illiquid assets such as landed property with valuation worth NGN 40m and sponsors business asset ownership (trucks) worth NGN 20m.

The essence of all of these other funds and documents was just to show that my sponsor could actually pay off my loan.

Someone told me that if I was using loans as proof of funds, it was important to use a sponsor whose financial situation showed that they could handle the loan.

Finally, under client information, I included the birth certificates of my siblings, as well as the international passport data page of my sponsor (mother).

I also included a letter and affidavit of sponsorship, Sponsors business certificate of incorporation and memorandum of association, and sponsors affidavit of change of name with newspaper publication. Finally, my “banging” SOP was in this section.

SOP

My SOP also contains personal information... Nonetheless, I can share the structure.

- I started out with an Intro about myself, as well as my academic and professional trajectory.

- Then I moved to another paragraph I called “my purpose” where I spoke about my motivation for the course I wanted to do

- Then I moved to another paragraph I called “Why I chose McGill University” where I spoke about why I decided to opt for McGill as opposed to other options in Nigeria and in other countries.

- Then I moved to another paragraph called “Justifying the cost of my program”. This was important for me to do because – as I mentioned earlier, I was using student loans to finance my education and my school fees is freaking expensive (CAD \$ 47,500) so it was important for me to “justify” the cost of my studies to the VO.

- Then I moved to another paragraph called “Family & Economic ties to Nigeria” where I spoke about my home ties being all my family in Nigeria. I also explained things that would make me return to my home country such as the amazing career I had started in Nigeria (evidenced by all the documents I submitted in my Letter of acceptance. I also spoke about specific things I wanted to use the Msc to achieve in Nigeria.

- Then I moved to another paragraph called “Funds available” where I showed a table of funds I had available.

- Finally, I finished with a section called “My responsibilities as a student” where I explained that I fully understood my responsibilities as an international student in Canada – bounded by the conditions of my student visa and by McGill University. I also wholeheartedly committed to abiding by all the rules and responsibilities that would apply to me as an International student in Canada and at McGill University.

- Then I ended SOP by telling them that their support is very essential to my dreams. I also humbly requested for the issuance of a study permit that was effective on or before the 1st of June 2019, as I wanted to travel to Canada by the 10th of June 2019 to acclimatize and get ready for my schools' orientation on the 17th of June.

You will testify!!!