



Profile

Personal Information

Name Umurerwa, Nicole *Mbera*
Share different name No
Birthdate 04/17/2003
Gender Identity Female

Contact Details

Email, Phone mberanicole@gmail.com, +250.787543448, Mobile, No other telephone
Permanent Address KK 737 St Kigali, Umujyi Wa Kigali, RWA

Demographics

Sex Female
Military Status None
Hispanic or Latino/a/x No
Race Black or African American (Africa)

Language

Rwanda, Kinyarwanda First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home
English Speak, Read, Write
French Speak, Read, Write
Kirundi Speak, Read, Write
Swahili Speak, Read, Write

Geography and Nationality

Citizenship Status Citizen of non-U.S. country
Birthplace Kigali, Rwanda (0 Years US, Years Non-US)
Other Citizenships Rwanda
Current US Visa None

CA Fee Waiver

Fee Waiver Requested	Yes, Signed: Nicole Mbera Umurerwa I can provide a supporting statement from a school official, college access counselor, financial aid officer, or community leader
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Family

Household

Parents Never Married

Home Parent 1

Step-Parents 2

Parent 1

Mother

Name Mrs. Marie josee Ingabire

Email, Phone +250.78265205, Mobile

Occupation Other

Education Graduated from college/university
Bachelors (2014), **ULK, RWA**

Parent 2

Father

Name Mr. Jean Bosco Mberabagabo

Email, Phone +250.788762641, Mobile

Occupation Other

Education Graduated from college/university
Bachelors (2020), **UCK, RWA**

Siblings

1. Germaine Mbera Umulisa, Age 16
2. Marie Grace Uwase, Age 21
3. Mbera Nelson Kalisa, Age 7
4. Mbera Kellia Umukundwa, Age 6
5. Kevin Klaus Manzi, Age 1

Step-Parent 1

Step-father, married to Parent 1

Name Mr. etienne Nturo

Occupation Other

Education Some high/secondary school

Step-Parent 2

Step-mother, married to Parent 2

Name Nadia Giciro

Education

Current or Most Recent Secondary School

College Saint André, Kigali, RWA, Religious (01/2018 - 07/2021)

Boarding School Yes: Living at School

Other **GSNDL Byimana, RWA, Religious** (01/2015 - 11/2017)

Progression Did or will take gap year

Graduation Date 07/2021

Colleges & Universities

Grades

Rank 3 / 36, Weighted

GPA 84.98 / 100 , Weighted

Current or Most Recent Year Courses

First Trimester	Second Trimester	Third Trimester
PHYS - Physics - (ADV)	PHYS - Physics - (ADV)	PHYS - Physics - (ADV)
CHEM - Chemistry - (ADV)	CHEM - Chemistry - (ADV)	CHEM - Chemistry - (ADV)
BIOL - Biology - (ADV)	BIOL - Biology - (ADV)	BIOL - Biology - (ADV)
RELG - Religion - (REG)	RELG - Religion - (REG)	RELG - Religion - (REG)
COMPSCI - Basic Computer Skills - (REG)	COMPSCI - Basic Computer Skills - (REG)	COMPSCI - Basic Computer Skills - (REG)
LANG - French - (REG)	LANG - French - (REG)	LANG - French - (REG)
PE/HLTH - Sport - (REG)	PE/HLTH - Sport - (REG)	PE/HLTH - Sport - (REG)
MATH - Subsdiary Mathematics - (REG)	MATH - Subsdiary Mathematics - (REG)	MATH - Subsdiary Mathematics - (REG)
OTH/ELE - Entrepreneurship - (ADV)	OTH/ELE - Entrepreneurship - (ADV)	OTH/ELE - Entrepreneurship - (ADV)
HIST - General Studies - (ADV)	HIST - General Studies - (ADV)	HIST - General Studies - (ADV)
LANG - Kinyarwanda - (ADV)	LANG - Kinyarwanda - (ADV)	LANG - Kinyarwanda - (ADV)

Honors

#1 Best Speaker in British Parliament Debate	National	12
#1 Girl in our District in National Exam	State/Regional	9
#1 Top Geek in BNR Economic Quiz	National	11
#2 Second Speaker in Young Entrepreneurs Debate Championship	National	10
#1 Spelling Bee	National	10

Community-Based Organizations

CBO 1	EducationUSA
Counselor	Mr. Norris Kayitare
Email, Phone	nkayitare@bridge2rwanda.org, +250.782155842

Future Plans

Undecided, Undecided

Testing

Leaving Exams

Physics	A	07/2021, Actual, Other (specify below), NESA
Chemistry	A	07/2021, Actual, Other (specify below), NESA
Biology	A	07/2021, Actual, Other (specify below), NESA
Entrepreneurship	A	07/2021, Actual, Other (specify below), NESA
General Studies	A	07/2021, Actual, Other (specify below), NESA

Activities

Debate/Speech

9, 10, 11, 12	President, Debate Club
Year	Competed in National and International debates; won British parliament debate mate, (NYEDC); emerged as the Best speaker in iDebate Rwanda
16 hr/wk, 40 wk/yr	
Continue	

Community Service (Volunteer)

10, 11, 12	President, Seven United for the Needy
Year	Organized and coordinated various charity campaigns; energized fundraising to meet the needs of the poor; delegated community services
12 hr/wk, 38 wk/yr	
Continue	

Debate/Speech

11, 12	Co-founder and President, Toast Masters
School	Taught public speaking and communication skills to students; built strong leaders who turned into head prefects
12 hr/wk, 36 wk/yr	
Continue	

Other Club/Activity

10, 11, 12	Vice-President, Entrepreneurship and Business Club
School	Run development business project; competed in National Bank of Rwanda(BNR) economic quiz challenge; made soap for sale
10 hr/wk, 36 wk/yr	
Continue	

Student Govt./Politics

10, 11	Class President, College Saint Andre
School	Advocated for students' needs and problems; prioritized teamwork to elevate our performance; ensured class cleanliness; filled class journal
168 hr/wk, 36 wk/yr	
Continue	

Religious

9, 10, 11, 12	President and Soloist, Devine Singers Choir
Year	Won various singing competitions; sang solo in multiple songs; organized choir rehearsals, and attended church meetings
28 hr/wk, 48 wk/yr	
Continue	

Computer/Technology

12	Software Developer, She Can Code Rwanda
Break	Designed websites; developed and run a web application; mastered and trained HTML, CSS, and JavaScript computer language
63 hr/wk, 14 wk/yr	
Continue	

Art

12	Craft Artist, UMURINGA Fashion Code
Break	Fabricated and sold skin-made artistic bags and shoes; understood marketing and business management
70 hr/wk, 8 wk/yr	
Continue	

Internship

11	Lab Technician, Polyclinic Aurore
School	Tested AIDS, malaria, and NFS (blood tests); diagnosed diabetes; examined stool
70 hr/wk, 6 wk/yr	
Continue	

Community Service (Volunteer)

11, 12	Youth Representative, Nyamirambo Sector
Break	Planned and coordinated youth community service; scheduled weekly sports, mediated youth needs and problems; attended district youth meetings
7 hr/wk, 12 wk/yr	
Continue	

Writing

Personal Essay

Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Darkness was disappearing; with its tremendous enlightenment and hope, the sun was embracing the Earth, and birds caroling with their angelic voices. It was going to be a good day, it was my fourth birthday, and I was beyond ecstatic. I sat in my father's lap and received many gifts that I lost count. This memory has forever been ingrained in my mind, not because it was an amazing birthday, though it was, but because it was the day my father left us for an apparent military mission.

Weeks and years passed and we never caught wind of my father's whereabouts. Thus, we assumed that he had probably perished in war. One morning, we found mum sobbing and we thought they had found our dad's corpse. To our surprise, it was an invitation to dad's wedding. I began to believe that I was daydreaming. But it was an incontrovertible truth that dad would never appear in my life again. That day, I cursed my birthday; it became the traumatic day our father left us.

Though I was struggling with the inexplicable abandonment of my father, it seemed far worse for my mom. She became traumatized, cried days and nights, and questioned God. She had nightmares and skipped meals almost every day, subsequently lost weight, and seemed better off dead. I had already lost my dad, surely I couldn't lose mum too. I resolved to do whatever it would take to bring mum back to "life." I felt the best way to do this was to bury myself in my books, for I would make my mum proud through my academic performance. Every day, I religiously prepped, visited the library, and approached teachers for further explanation. Soon enough, my academic performance soared, and I was announced the first in class, a story that made my mother, for the first time in a long time, smile. This fueled my engine. I now studied to make my mother proud and restore her vibrant life.

It wasn't until I went to a boarding high school, that I processed the abandonment of my father because I'd been too busy trying to make sure mum was fine. I felt odd and weird around my peers because I felt that I would be stigmatized and rejected if they knew my story. One night my redemption came along. One of my classmates, Ange, did what many had failed, she approached me and chatted with me. At first, I felt uncomfortable but when she opened up about her story, I was speechless. Ange told me how she didn't even know her parents; they had left her in an orphanage when she was too little to learn. How brave Ange was! Despite her past, Ange never let it hold her back; more importantly, she empowered me to share my story. I felt like a bird set free.

Ange became the turning point in my life. With her help, I began to join my peers gradually and before long I had started organizing and hosting anti-corruption and charity events, which were some of my passions. I quickly broke into social circles and empowered other students to share their stories. By the end of the year, I was selected to host an annual farewell party for students, the biggest event at school. I went from a seemingly odd and timid girl to a major event host. What a turnaround it was for me!

More importantly, I conquered my anger against my dad by visiting him and his new family. Turns out that they are a great family after all. Taking this leap of faith won me another amazing family and my mother found her version of happiness and started another family with my step-father. Ange's bravery empowered me to stretch my wings and conquer my fears, and I want to live my life being an Ange in other people's lives.

Additional Information

I have won all public speaking school championships, received admission, and excelled in the inaugural and exclusive British parliament debate boot camp as well as spoken in lieu of the youth representative during internationally recognized events during gatherings with distinguished guests. I was born to conquer crowds,

eyeballs staring me down; accompanied by bored, curious, or sometimes indifferent faces. Despite these accomplishments, I do not view myself as a public speaker. I am more than an eloquent voice oozing carefully rehearsed words.

I believe that words rule the world. Words have the power to ignite hate within others; as evidenced by the Genocide Against the Tutsi in 1994 in my country, Rwanda. Words have built republics and sparked kindness and love amongst the coldhearted thus building the greatest of relationships. As in the case of my divorced parents, they have ended relationships; bringing separation, and resentment. But it is these same words that brought healing and hope to my depressed mother.

Although broken, my family supported my endeavors in mastering the art of speaking in public. Stringing together words to dissuade, empower, admonish, sensitize, entertain... My future was bound towards politics and I received no objections to this at home. When I stepped out into the wider community, however, I was shocked to learn that it is greatly frowned upon for women in my country to openly show interest in political matters. Politics is not a field that a woman aspires to but instead, stumbles into accidentally while she is busy organizing community events. Even then, her capacity to engage is in a supporting role. It is no wonder that despite having one of the world's largest representations of women in government, our gender remains fairly disadvantaged to men academically, professionally, socially.

Growing up and frequenting open forums that allowed me to speak out on this, I encountered words such as "angry," "bitter," "misinformed." These were not said to me but at me. Attacking me for my ambition. As an adolescent, this confused me because the slander, backbiting, and opposition would come mostly from the women, urging my mother to educate me on the norms of our country.

My passion did not falter. I continue to believe in words and the power that they convey and because of this, I was able to organize fundraising for AIDS patients in The University Teaching Hospital of Kigali; I mobilized parents, high school, and university students alike towards a common goal. The happiness and joy on the faces of the convalescents solidified my passion in works of public service, to continue working towards being a leader.

To me, being a leader goes beyond having the right words to bring people into action or carrying out acts of service for the betterment of the community. True leadership lies in creating spaces for others so that they too can realize their leadership potential. This is what led me to create a Toastmasters Club both in my high school and in my village. The club has grown to over 300 members and has empowered various youth to not only speak out but also take action on issues close to their hearts; female genital mutilation, aiding street children, adding extracurricular activities to the curriculum and among others.

Every year, my country commemorates the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi that wreaked havoc in our land, tearing a great people apart. I listen to the traumatic stories of the survivors, narrations amidst tears, and compose songs, poems to comfort them. In fact, every year I speak with the goal of imparting hope that our generation will be an embodiment of not only a society driven by love but also an inclusive one that upholds one another, encouraging and supporting individuals despite tribe or gender. This is the mark I want to leave as I continue my journey.

Education Progression

Education progression details

Did or will take gap year

Required Explanation

Education progression

During my last year of high school, I joined a scholars program called ESP which prepares students for Universities studies in the US. I am currently in this program up to June 2022.

Secondary school change

In my country, we often change schools from Ordinary Level to Advanced Level.

Bucknell University Questions

General

Preferred start term	Fall 2022
Admission plan	Early Decision
Testing plan	No, I would not like my SAT and/or ACT scores to be considered as part of the admission process to Bucknell University.
School Specific Fee Waivers	I do not qualify for a Fee Waiver
Financial aid	Yes
Do you intend to pursue merit-based scholarships?	Yes
Portfolio Slideroom	No
Religious preference	Roman Catholic
Early Decision Agreement	Yes, I have read and understand my rights and responsibilities under the Early Decision Process. I wish to be considered as an Early Decision candidate at Bucknell University. I also understand that with an Early Decision offer of admissions, this institution may share my name and my early commitment with other institutions. Nicole Mbera Umurerwa

Academics

College	College of Arts & Sciences
Major	Computer Science (Arts and Sciences)
College (optional):	College of Arts & Sciences
Major (optional)	Psychology

Please explain your interest in your first-choice major/undecided status and your second-choice major, should you opt to list one.

I live in a country, Rwanda, where suicide is a great taboo. When one commits suicide they end up being judged, cursed, and almost no one attends the funeral. It wasn't until I witnessed the suicide of a neighbor who was diagnosed with prostate cancer and had his legs later amputated, that I took action. I knew we shouldn't judge him but instead find ways to address this issue of suicide and mental health issues in Rwanda.

I was devastated and wanted to understand more about psychology. I read psychological and personal development books to learn more about how I can empower my peers to share their stories and assist traumatized victims of the 1994 Genocide to escape the prison of depression. As I pondered, I found an answer in the emerging computer science technologies. This pushed me to learn different programming languages to develop a digital platform that helps people with trauma and depression.

With Computer Science, I will program automated surgical machines for cancer treatment and other cardiovascular diseases that lead to depression and other mental health issues. Computer Science will be the best sharpener of my dreams, as signified by the presence of exceptional professors like Alexander Fuchsberger and a cutting-edge computer science research center. At Bucknell University, I would also study Psychology, specifically, abnormal psychological issues at Danville State Psychiatric Hospital, and work with children at the on-campus

child care center, which will help me to achieve my dream of impacting mental health using emerging technologies.

Activities

Activity 1 Debate Team

Contacts

Previously applied No

Family

Are any siblings also applying for undergraduate admission to Bucknell University this year? No

Do you have any relatives who are attending or have attended Bucknell University? No

Have any relatives ever worked for Bucknell University? Yes

Is employee relative in list No

Parent different address No

Parent non-US birth country Rwanda

Writing

Disciplinary History No

Criminal History No

Affirmations

By submitting this application, I affirm my understanding of and agreement to the statements found here: <http://www.commonapp.org/affirmations>.