**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

According to Martina Navratilova, “Cybersecurity used to be an inconvenience sometimes, but now it’s a necessity all the time”. This is to say that the security of information and resources has been incorporated as part of everyday activity and cannot be overestimated. With that in mind, it is still a thing of surprise to me to see that this field of study is still overlooked in some parts of the world, especially in my continent of Africa. I have always had a keen interest in technology despite my love for literature, and after graduating top of my class with a BA in English and Literary Studies/History and International Studies (double honors), I ventured into the world of Information Technology bordering on system designs and computer networking which has informed my experience for the past four years and counting. When I took the big decision of career change to Information Technology from an Art background, I understood it will be a double effort in study and research as well as interest. Working in the field of automation and security system operations in 2019, I became exposed to the level of damage identity theft, privacy breach, and other cyber crimes can cause to corporate bodies and individuals. A friend once lost his job and almost his life as a result of a security breach at his company that he unknowingly facilitated because he lacked knowledge of what I came to understand as advanced internet security.

My experience was further shaped by a personal security breach experience with my social media accounts hijacked after logging into a public Wi-Fi for a fretting moment. I was fueled by hurt and anger into understanding why and how my accounts were breached and my identity stolen by cyber criminals under my watch. This hurt metamorphosed into a deep interest that strongly informed my drive to study cybersecurity and how I can make each day safer than the previous through data and information security. I came to understand more about privacy policies and some security protection mechanisms that guide and protect online identity. This largely influenced my interest in and desire to learn more about Cybersecurity.

My previous research works primarily involved interdisciplinary study in Literature and Psychology which exposed me to the understanding of the self and human behavior. In working as a security analyst for a government agency in my country since February 2021, where I was retained after my 1 year compulsory National Service, I employed my understanding of the workings of the human mind to create structures for office security systems. I am an advocate of the creation of defense mechanisms against attacks before they happen and this has been my approach to addressing security issues around me. In doing this, I have learned to think like a Black Hat so I can protect like a White Hat. This has guided my ethics of implementing security measures. I read through privacy policies like I would an examination question and imagine every link to be an attack first and analyze it before accepting or declining them. In the way I have learned to protect my data, I want to gain more understanding in assisting corporate bodies to protect their assets in this dynamic global space.

In addition to the hands-on experience in the area of systems security, I have two Badges issued by Cisco Networking Academy for the completion of Introductory Courses in Cybersecurity and Networking, as well as presently undergoing courses for Advanced knowledge in Cybersecurity, Network Security, and Cryptography online with Coursera as a form of personal development and building my knowledge in programming as well. I am a Member of the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA); Associate Member of the Society of Project Management and Development Professionals International and a Certified Project Practitioner (CPP) with an Advanced Certificate in Project Management from IPMA-UK; and a Member of the Chartered Institute of Professional Forensic Investigators INC, Nigeria.

I believe that my passion and drive can help me achieve my desire to learn and become a certified Cyber Policy and Data Analyst. My research interest lies majorly in policies that guide cyberspace, how they are formulated, what guides their formation and what informs their implementation. I intend also to master the art of detecting and analyzing system vulnerabilities, Incident response, and managing cyber attacks as well as Privacy Protection. I want to build and learn with other cybersecurity enthusiasts on the best way to help corporate organizations and individuals protect their data and privacy. Arming people with the right knowledge and information to protect their data will significantly reduce the effect and reach of cyber criminals. Considering the rate of cybercrime globally, it is quite evident that cyberspace is a breeding environment for possible cyber warfare that can be more dangerous than any physical war ever seen if left unchecked and uncontrolled. Contributing my knowledge to the service of humanity has never felt more necessary than now, particularly in a field I am deeply interested in. The attacks on cyberspace require an army of White Hats to provide defense systems against these threats that are consistently building. To join this army, I need to further my study to meet experts in the field, expand my knowledge and gain more certification to practice globally.

The Cybersecurity concentration of the Computer Science graduate program entwines theory deeply with practicals. I am convinced that taking my studies to the height I want: to attain a Ph.D. in Cybersecurity under the School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence at Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at Arizona State University (ASU), would fit entirely with my idea of research, and a safe place to learn and socialize. I am equally drawn to the quality and diversity of scholars in the program, particularly Prof. Gail-Joon Ahn, Prof Katina Michael, and Associate Prof. Adam Doupé, having gone through their research interests and works, and I honestly believe they can provide me with the kind of mentorship I need to hone my skills for my present and future research. I strongly believe that Arizona State University will offer me the much-needed space to grow and develop a style of my own in the field, despite my educational background in Arts.

**INCLUDE YOUR NAME HERE**