OGBUGO ESTHER CHIMEKAGBE FUTURE 23 SCHOLARSHIP FUND 4TH OCTOBER 2023

Dear Scholarship Selection Committee:

My name is Ogbugo Esther Chimekagbe. I recently obtained a bachelor’s degree in Medical Laboratory Science, and I am currently rounding off my internship at the Rivers State University Teaching Hospital. Right now, I am in a position where I can't help myself through this diploma program due to some certain reasons I would love to really let you in on. I have waited for AltSchool Africa for close to five months, within this period I had gone through the home study kit, written the entry exams, and bonded with the community. I found the leaders interesting, and this is something I really need right now at this stage of my life. But while waiting for the semester to start, the savings which I had put together from my internship to kick start this program was lost in an investment which has left me devastated, and I am so ashamed to speak about it.

My interest in data science began during my project work which followed an experimental design. In the process, I had to contract a data scientist who worked on my data using statistical analysis and visualizations to rearrange and ask the right questions for my objectives. I felt like I knew little about my research work, asides from the fact that I carried out the test analysis on the work bench. My discussion and conclusion were hinged upon the work done by the data scientist. My move into Tech is not just because of the money that they say it brings when you have a good job (which is fantastic). It has always been my wish to be a strong research scientist, and to have stronger grounds in that, I opted to know more on Data science. But all this has just been a mere dream because my parents are a little bit traditional and do not really see a need why I am about to learn something else other than what I studied in school. They are not willing to support this course in any way. All I am being told is “find a job and start doing tests for people.” As well-meaning as that might be, I do not see myself ending as a bench scientist. I really want to be a data scientist, and I want this dream to be harnessed and groomed through AltSchool Africa.

In the medical field, especially medical laboratory science, there are a lot of data that I believe if the right questions are asked and different projects are carried out, it would really be mind-blowing and contribute to a sustainable health informative system. If you would permit me, I would like to cite an example. In the course of my internship, I was posted to a unit called Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). In this unit, we received thousands of samples from different states with confirmed cases of HIV 1 and 2. From the little skills I have, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and analysis, this has brought me to a point of awareness that statistical information is vital to regulate and reduce the outbreak of these disease conditions, hence the need for my drive to get statistical knowledge through data science.

I am grateful to your organization for believing in young Nigerians and committing to help them become better and achieve their dreams. As a young medical laboratory scientist with a passion for biostatistics and analysis, I appeal for as much help as I can get to achieve my goal. I would be grateful if your organization would support my dreams and aspirations toward this field by awarding me this scholarship. Thank you.

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