In not more than 500 words please explain why you are applying for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship and how you meet the four main criteria

**A good fit with Cambridge**

You should be able to persuade the Trust that your qualifications and aspirations accord with what Cambridge has to offer in its postgraduate programme. It is important that you can make a convincing argument for doing a particular postgraduate degree at Cambridge.

It is therefore important that you fully research your proposed degree using the Graduate Studies Prospectus and the website of the department to which you are applying.

**Academic excellence**

Gates Cambridge Scholars are expected to be academically outstanding with the ability to make a significant contribution to their discipline while in Cambridge. At the start of the application process, potential Scholars are ranked by the department they are applying to. Only the most outstanding candidates are considered further.

**Leadership potential**

Successful applicants must be able to demonstrate a clear ability to lead. Evidence of leadership can be expressed in a multitude of ways but the capacity of Gates Cambridge Scholars to 'take others with them' is central to the success of the programme.

**A commitment to improving the lives of others**

A defining characteristic of the Gates Cambridge Scholarships is the commitment of our Scholars to working for the greater good. Although broadly interpreted, this concept is nonetheless fundamental and sets this programme apart from others of its kind.

"Joggling" is the sport of running and juggling simultaneously, and it has become an inseparable part of my identity. Not only has it been a way of challenging my body physically and mentally, it has been a vehicle for targeting specific issues that are important to me. When I first heard about Rhotia Valley, Tanzania, my engineering side was inspired by the community’s mission to incorporate One-Laptop-Per-Child laptops into the primary school, as it applies low-cost, robust technology to proliferate education and bring more of the world into the 21st century. I successfully broke two joggling world records to raise support for this project, and although it was satisfying to break 22-year-old records, the partnership with the community in Rhotia Valley made the feat truly fulfilling.

One year after these records, I travelled to Japan and meet some victims of the Tohoku Earthquake in Minamisanriku. One of the most memorable parts of the trip was when one of the elder men in the town told us, “when you return to the big cities in America, do not forget about us. The media forgot about us but we are still struggling.” This moment galvanized me into taking action while conducting summer research on nanomaterials at Rice University. I decided to set a third record to raise awareness and support for this Japanese community, spending countless hours training and assembling a team of coaches, media, and supporters to help out. Though I was successful in breaking the record and raising support, this journey was sprinkled with unusual challenges, such as being invited for a live radio interview for a Minnesota station whose premise turned out to be humiliating their guests. The experience of candidly responding to their malicious banter and demeaning of the situation in Minamisanriku with composure and eloquence was a turning point in my personal growth. It was the most piercing antagonism I have ever received in my decade-long joggling career, but taught me the importance of strong commitment and leadership.

My passion for joggling is a reflection of my passion for engineering. Although my research and industry experience has been an eclectic mix of nanomaterials, space electronics, and photonics, these experiences have driven me towards my true interests. They have instilled me with the mindset to have a creative and interdisciplinary approach to neuromorphic engineering, which will be necessary as the paradigm of computing changes. My background in Electrical Engineering has allowed me to master the basic tools to build complex electronic systems, and being able to apply them to the BIMPA project in the Computer Laboratory at the University of Cambridge would allow me to help pave the future for the next generation of computing. Ultimately, I hope this new technology will enable my two long-term goals; making humans a multiplanetary species and advancing personalized education. Although I have already taken steps in working towards these goals, through my experience at SpaceX and my work with Rhotia Valley, there is still much work to be done.