Growing up and schooling in my village, Hohoe in the Volta region of Ghana, we had no access to computers and limited access to any form of technology. Thankfully, my uncle took me to the city, Accra for my secondary education and it was then that I saw and touched a computer for the first time ever in my life.

My fascination and joy knew no bounds. From that time on, anytime I had the opportunity, I would go to the computer lab and try to learn more about the computer; I had developed a new hobby. My interest heightened with each visit and this informed my decision to study Computer Engineering at the university. (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology) in my adult life when I had the chance. I couldn’t resist the opportunity to learn more about this gadget which though small, could turn the entire world into a small place with just a click and make everything so easy.

For my project work at the University, two of my colleagues and I developed an alarm device using C- programming. This device could be linked to a mobile phone or any telecommunication device to give real time alerts whenever there is a fire outbreak or smoke emission where the device has been installed.

Continuing to follow the trend of technological advancement in my country and the insecurities associated with it, coupled with my quest to broaden my knowledge about computers, I realized that my interest was specifically focused on cyber security particularly because in Ghana, where I’m from, more and more people have and are gaining access to computers, mobile phones and other sophisticated gadgets that make life a lot easier but as with every good thing, there are those who also use it to perpetuate evil. This has caused some insecurities in the society as there are more and more errands and tasks performed via computers or mobile phones, through online services offered by banks, insurance companies, schools and even hospitals. ……………………………………………….

This advancement in technology has not just brought about cyber insecurity but also its increase over time, a trend that successive governments in my country have tried countless times to curb through sensitization workshops, training, etc., but with little success. The over ten years of working at the Central bank of Ghana as an Electrical/Electronic engineer, exposed me to numerous ways by which technology is used as a means of exploitation in the financial sector; a very worrying trend.

Issues of cybercrimes relating to credit card crimes, contractual crimes, offering jobs, and advanced fee fraud have been fairly documented (Magele, 2005; Longe et al., 2009). Cyber offenders exploit vulnerabilities in systems, ignorance and gullibility on the part of users to carry out their atrocious crimes.

According to the Director of the cyber-crime Unit of the Ghana Police Service, in the year 2017, Ghana lost $69 million to cybercrime. Again, as of August 2018, Ghana lost $97 million to cybercrime, a trend that will be worrying to any government. It is my greatest desire to be among the team that will help curb this menace not just in Ghana but in parts of Africa too.

It was with this burning desire that while searching for a school that can help me achieve this aim, I found the London Metropolitan University, a school with a Cyber Security Research Centre. It will be a great honor if I’m offered an opportunity to be part of such a prestigious institution to study Computer networking and Cyber security which will undoubtedly broaden my knowledge base, skills and experience to enhance my new career focus.

The practical orientation of your in-depth coursework will not only offer me a clearer understanding of the subject but also the skills to execute it. I am confident my exposure to such initiatives would augment my knowledge base and add tremendous value in enabling me to realize my professional goals.