From a young age, I found myself captivated by the intricate patterns and systems that exists in the natural world. My background in Animal Biology and Botany gave me a unique lens to explore these connections as I delved into Genetics, Evolution and Ecology. I learned that, as Charles Darwin once noted, “In the long history of humankind, those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.” I carried this lesson with me as I navigated the world of Biological Sciences, but it was during my undergraduate studies at the University of Ghana that I started to recognize parallels between Biological Ecosystems and the digital world. My journey to this point has been unconventional as it has been enlightening. My academic and professional experiences have uniquely positioned me to excel in Cybersecurity, a field that now represents the convergence of my passions, skills, and aspirations.

In 2019, I completed my BSc in Animal Biology and Conservation Sciences and Botany, a journey that equipped me with analytical thinking, problem-solving, and statistical skills. The coursework-ranging from Taxonomy and Conservation to Microbiology and Biochemistry-required an understanding of intricate and complex systems, much like the ever-evolving field of Cybersecurity. This foundational knowledge, though seemingly disconnected from Cybersecurity, has played a crucial role in shaping my problem-solving skills and understanding of systemic structures. However, my academic achievements were overshadowed by a GPA of 2.23. For a while, I grappled with the weight of that number, but in hindsight, it became a crucial moment of self-actualization and self-refection. As Antoine de Saint-Exupery once said, “A goal without a plan is just a wish.” My performance was not a reflection of my potential, but rather a wake-up call to rechart my course.

After graduation, I embarked on a path that took me through various professional experiences-from working as a Medical Laboratory Scientist at Ga North Municipal Hospital to serving as a Data Analyst at United Pensions Trustees Limited. Each role expanded my perspective and revealed a different facet of technology and its intersection with critical real-world issues, but it was my stint as an IT Specialist at Docupro Limited that reignited my passion for technology. During the COVID-19 pandemic, my volunteer work in contact tracing underscored the significance of accurate data and the urgent need for robust system to safeguard public health, attention to detail and teamwork skills-lessons that would later translate into my growing interest in Cybersecurity. Working closely with digital systems sparked a realization: I wanted to contribute to the field of Software Development, where I could build and safeguard systems that drive modern society.

A pivotal turning point came when I made a career switch towards IT, specifically Software Development. This decision was heavily influenced by conversations with mentors, family, and supervisors who encouraged me to harness my technical inclinations. Under the stewardship of Mr. Isaac Osafo, Mr. Habib Kadiri and Mr. Abdul-Razak Adams, I undertook rigorous training in Full Stack Software Development with a focus on JavaScript at Codetrain Africa Software Training Institute and Front-End Development at Azubi Africa. My time at Codetrain, where I led successful coding events and excelled and emerged as a valedictorian at Azubi Africa, solidified my passion for technology and equipped me with invaluable skills in JavaScript, React.js, Next.js, Node.js, Express.js, React Native and other tools.

As a developer, I’ve built fintech apps, games, ecommerce platforms, hospital and school management systems and real time chat apps. I gained expertise in version control, database management, and debugging. The technical skills I acquired gave me a solid foundation, but it was the soft skills-communication, leadership, and collaboration-that prepared me to tackle larger challenges. It was during one of these coding events that I realized the importance of security in Software Development. The vulnerabilities in code, the gaps in data protection, and the looming threat of cyberattacks revealed a new path-Cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity, to me, is like the immune system in the biological world-it is essential to protect and fortify the intricate systems that drive our digital ecosystem. It is also the vigilant guardian of the digital age. The words of renowned Cybersecurity expert Bruce Schneier resonate deeply with me:” Security is not a product, but a process.” My technical background in Software Development complements this philosophy by providing a thorough understanding of the potential vulnerabilities within systems and applications. This intersection of Software Development and Cybersecurity is where my ambitions lie-leveraging my knowledge to create secure, resilient systems. This realization, along with my technical background in Software Development, led me to pursue a Master’s in Cybersecurity.

The New York Institute of Technology stood out as the ideal environment for me to further my studies. NYIT’s Cybersecurity program represents an ideal setting for my aspirations. The department’s commitment to cutting-edge research, hands-on experience, industry-aligned curriculum and a collaborative learning environment aligns seamlessly with my career goals. Its emphasis on real-world applications, advanced cybersecurity tools, and industry partnerships will provide me with the skills, resources and opportunities to deepen my expertise in Cybersecurity while contributing to the field’s advancement and also bridge the gap between Software Development and security. Moreover, NYIT’s strong values of innovation, collaboration and community resonate deeply with my personal philosophy. The diverse student body and experienced faculty create an environment where I can continue to grow, not just as a professional, but as an individual. I am particularly drawn to the school’s emphasis on preparing students to tackle real-world challenges, an approach that aligns with my own aspirations to make a tangible impact in the tech industry.

In the short term, I aim to deepen my technical expertise in Cybersecurity by gaining certifications and contributing to industry projects. I plan to leverage my Software Development background to create secure applications and systems, while also pursuing research in threat mitigations strategies. Long-term, my goal is to lead Cybersecurity initiatives in organizations, ensuring that digital systems are both innovative and secure. I also want to integrate my Software Development skills with Cybersecurity to develop innovative solutions that address complex security challenges. I believe that my unique combination of skills-from Biology to Software Development to Cybersecurity-will allow me to approach challenges from a multifaceted perspective.

In conclusion, my journey from a background in Biology and Conservation to the forefront of Software Development and now Cybersecurity is a testament to the power of interdisciplinary learning and self-discovery. The New York Institute of Technology offers the perfect platform for me to bridge my past experience with my future ambitions. I am eager to contribute to and grow within this esteemed program, am I am confident that my diverse background and passion for Cybersecurity will enable me to make a meaningful contribution to the field.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my experiences and aspirations align with the goals of your program.