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ISF Transcript of Lecture:

Winning the i-Scholar Initiative (ISI) Sponsorship for GRE/GMAT & TOEFL

Wednesday 25th March, 2020; 0800 WAT

Lecturer: Muraina Luqman [Supported by: Fahidat Gbadamosi]

B.Sc.: Sociology, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria (First Class);

M.Sc. (in view): Sociology, University of Cape Town, South Africa (Mastercard Foundation Scholar).

Member: Junior Sociologist Network (JSN); Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria.

Publication/Article:

- Muraina, Luqman & Bawalla, O.G. (2019). Entrepreneurial Intention Among Nigerian Undergraduates: A Sociological Investigation of South-West Universities. *Covenant Journal of Entrepreneurship (CJOE)* 3(1): 48 – 67. DOI: 10.20370/emkc-6656. <http://journals.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/index.php/cjoe/article/view/1599/944>
- Muraina, Luqman O. (2020). 2020: A Year Bounded with Unwarranted Consciousness. Published with Motimagazine. <https://motimagazine.co.zw/advice/2020-a-year-bounded-with-unwarranted-consciousness/#.XnsGRogzZPY>

Moderator: Scholar Hussein

Transmission Crew: Scholars Hussein, Justin Ugwu, Hammid, Olamiposi, Rashid, Etubi ([Telegram Chat Link](#))

About Scholarship: Scholars Monsur & Rashid

Admin: Researcher Bankole & ISFM Scholar Obasekore Hameed

Lecture Agenda

1. [About i-Scholar Initiative \(ISI\).](#)
2. [How to Secure Sponsorship for The Standardized Tests and Associated Benefits.](#)
3. [Writing A Strong Motivational Letter for The Sponsorship.](#)
4. [Drafting A Clear Plan on The Preparation and Strategy of Writing and Passing the Tests.](#)
5. [Other Tips on Becoming A Successful Applicant.](#)
6. [Questions & Answers.](#)

1. About i-Scholar Initiative (ISI)

The i-Scholar Initiative (ISI) is a group of highly motivated persons who are verily interested in the success of Nigeria scholars out there. It is not a scholarship body like Erasmus Mundus or Mastercard. It is the dream of a fellow Nigerians like ourselves who felt the need to assist and aid the plentiful of scholars in the Nigeria eligible for and seeking scholarships worldwide.

As a very connected person, the person in charge of ISI speaks to many in his network who agree or otherwise to sponsor scholars. Note that, most of these sponsors reside in America and maybe, Canada. Thus, ISI is a 'hot one' for one who is particularly interested in America and countries where GRE/GMAT is sine qua non to admission.

Fortunately, day in and day out; the present crop of ISI scholars celebrate the addition of new sponsors to the sponsorship list. Thus, the probability of a scholar getting sponsored increases with each new sponsor.

2. How to Secure Sponsorship for The Standardized Tests and Associated Benefits

Basically, you can secure sponsorship through 3As':

1. Applying
2. Accepted
3. Active

In the rare case that you are just making a decision to apply for this opportunity, kindly visit:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/i-scholar-initiative-2020-application-announcement-victor-ogunmola/>

If you are fortunate to meet the requirements, please move with us as we talk through ensuring that you are accepted.

3. Writing A Strong Motivational Letter for The Sponsorship

Besides meeting all the requirements, acceptance also works through providing a strong, persuasive motivational letter for the sponsorship.

Like every other scholarship application, the importance of SOP/Motivational Letter/Application Letter cannot be over emphasized, and applying to ISI is not an exception. However, there is no special method of writing the Motivational Letter for ISI. You just write and put your best like every other letter you have written.

If you have little experience in writing these letters, kindly visit ISF past fora and access materials on writing a compelling motivational letter for ISI.

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Our past fora's transcripts in PDF/doc format can be found and downloaded here:

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=1UVI5yT-5JfMwyHHloxPwkuuPm08L_zBn

4. Drafting A Clear Plan on The Preparation and Strategy of Writing and Passing the Tests

Subsequently, the major work lies with developing a draft plan on the preparation and strategy for writing and passing at least your GRE examination. I have two ways of approaching this, thus, pick the one that works for you:

- ... GRE is VERY DIFFICULT, seriously, DIFFICULT is an understatement, it is HARD and even your First-Class might not be enough.
- GRE can be VERY SIMPLE, an excellent O-Level student can score over 330; in fact, the syllabus is below WAEC examination standards/requirements.

As such, if you have heard or believe that the GRE is difficult, your task is to make the reviewer believe you are more than capable of passing the examination. On the other hand, if you have heard or believe that the GRE is simple, all you need do is convince the reviewer you won't become overconfident and take the examination with levity.

First and foremost, you need to have basic information about GRE/GMAT itself and maybe TOEFL. You might need to familiarize yourself with writing centres.

You might put in your plan the specific dates and/or centres you plan to write the examination(s). This shows how prepared and informed you are (Please everyone should not put this, rather think of a unique means to convince the review board). Also, you can inform them of the books and preparatory materials you plan to use; of a coach who scored 341 and who has agreed to put you through the process; et al.

JUST DRAFT A PLAN AND MAKE THEM BELIEVE YOU ARE WORTHY TO BE FUNDED FOR YOUR GRE/GMAT.

If you are accepted and score excellently in your GRE, there is more in the bag. I 'think' that being sponsored for TOEFL is dependent on you having a very good score in your GRE. It is also not out of hand to show in your draft how you are preparing to write the GMAT/TOEFL.

However, saying you are going to write GRE in May and TOEFL in August shows how uninformed you are about the process, so you might need to talk to those who have written the two exams before and get their feedback. Personally, I think despite the simplicity of the GRE, 30-40 hours a week for 2.5/3 months is still required to pass excellently.

Also, if you are able to get an excellent score in your GRE, especially in the Verbal Reasoning and Analytical Writing, rarely would you not blast TOEFL even if you write it a month after GRE with the same preparation.

So, still on being active, it is possible that after you blast your GRE & TOEFL, you would get some special perks if YOU ARE ACTIVE.

5. Other Tips on Becoming A Successful Applicant

Scholar Fahidat Gbadamosi

I'd basically like to mention that amongst the requirements, an important one is the Recommendation Letter. Try to get someone who would write you a good recommendation letter. Not the generic one that is just edited.

The best applications are the ones you know you've given your very best to every document required. There are also some other instructions (tiny details we may not pay attention to) but it is stated that all documents should be sent in a SINGLE EMAIL. And be sure to name your documents in the best manners.

Good luck!

6. Questions & Answers

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- Q:** Should all the attachments be merged into a single file or they can all be attached singly within an email?
- A:** The documents can be attached singly with an email.
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- Q:** Please, can you talk about CV for the application?
- A:** You should try to make your resumes/CV more of an academic type rather than the professional one. You could check online for academic CV templates.
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- Q:** What if you are not currently in Nigeria and want to apply, is it possible?
- A:** The application procedure is silent on applicants' locations; thus, you can show enough reason that you need to be sponsored to be able to write the exam and get sponsored.
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- Q:** It's stated that the sponsor will register on the scholar's behalf. What about the choice of test centres and preferred location to take the tests?
- A:** You make the choices yourself. They do not select test centres, location and all that for you. They are just like mentors; they do not make choices for you.
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- Q:** As regards securing admission in schools, when is the right time to start applying for admission?
- A:** The application season begins around August/September every year.
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- Q:** Can ISI fund flight tickets and few other logistics if any scholar is unable to cover them due to financial constraints?
- A:** I can't say much on this. Currently, they have funded only GRE & TOEFL fees.
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Oluwaleke Umar Yusuf
For: International Scholarship Forum [ISF]