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Transcript of Lecture:

How to Secure Admission and Mastercard Scholarship To University of Pretoria

Sunday, 9th May, 2020; 20:00 WAT

Lecturer 1: Scholar Emmanuel Ichipi

Emmanuel Ichipi studied Chemical Engineering at Delta State University, Abraka and currently pursuing a masters degree majoring in Water Treatment/Utilisation a division of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. He's currently holding a teaching assistant position at the same university. He's a two-time MasterCard Scholar at the university.

He is very keen to learn and acquire new 21st century skills that are very applicable to our beloved country's engineering system in oil industry. Remediation of the oil spillages due to illegal, outdated methods and mismanagement of oil exploration/production practices that have seriously polluted the Niger Delta Area of Nigeria. This continuous problem has led to serious environmental impact, poverty, hunger, sicknesses as well as destruction of lives and properties and it is one of the major reasons for crisis, vandalism and militancy in that region of the country. Thus, this serves as a motivation for him to work towards contributing his own quota to the Nigerian Engineering world and improvement of the system.

Moderator: **Scholar Taiwo Ridwan.**

Transmission Crew: **Scholars Hussain, Muttolib, Chiogozim Faithful, Joseph Oluwatobi, Okoli Nwaneku, Ugwu Justin, A. B Salako, Rasheed Akinleye, Etubi, Paulotimi, Oyelami**

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Lecture Agenda:

1. Lecturers's Opening Remarks (Introduction).
2. Application Procedures and General Information on Admission and Scholarship.
3. More Information on MCFSP.
4. Questions and Answers (Q & A)
5. Appreciation Message

1. Lecturer's Opening Remarks (Introduction):

My name is Emmanuel.

I am currently studying for a master's degree in Chemical engineering at the University of Pretoria, South Africa under the sponsorship of MasterCard Foundation Scholarship Program (MCFSP). MCFSP is a fully funded scholarship and it is currently available for only Postgraduate studies.

2. Application Procedures and General information on admission and scholarship.

- *Applications to study at the University of Pretoria opens 1st of March for the year preceding. Applications for MCFSP opens around May 1st.*
- Securing admission into the University of Pretoria is quite a tedious process... Aside the getting all the documents to process the application, there are new directives (based on the department you are applying to) that actually requires you to have some serious requirements such as English test.
- This English test requirement started recently and it became an issue for the MCF management team at University of Pretoria (UP) to recruit new Scholars from West Africa.
- Another tough requirement is the South African Qualifications Assessment (SAQA). Unfortunately, SAQA is currently a must requirement for any one from West Africa who wishes to study at UP. (It wasn't compulsory when I applied in 2016).
- I will now tell you how I did my applications, both University and Scholarship. First with the University, I took time out to search and got every information on the school website www.up.ac.za. I searched for my department and looked for programs under the department that I could apply for.
- On the UP website, you will find more information about the scholarship and the requirements. Search for MasterCard Foundation Scholarship Program (well, should anyone decide to apply I can try to assist you with your essays... because it's quite technical.)
- For a very good chance to secure an admission you must have a very final year result... **AT LEAST A CGPA OF 4.3/5.0. (Your overall CGPA should be at least a second class upper division).**
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IMPORTANT 1:

*In this aspect of selecting programs, you will not be able to come into Masters program straight up. Especially in the Engineering faculty... Other Faculties also apply, so you must enquire properly before you proceed to apply else it's a waste of time. I was told that I have to apply for a Honors degree first (something similar to PGD for one year) before I can start masters the following year. **MCF at UP is fully aware of this so they are ready to sponsor both honors and masters degree so long your grades are good.***

IMPORTANT 2:

*Another important information is the type of honors degree that you can apply for. The folks in engineering, you can't apply for a B. Eng Hons, you can only apply for a BSc. Hons (Ap. Sci.). They are same course work and everything but different degree names. **B. Eng Hons is for only those who did their first degree at UP.** (I'm sorry I don't know how it is with other Faculties concerning this.) It is important to confirm very well, which degree you can apply for else your time will be wasted... I made a mistake to apply for B. Eng Hons and it was rejected, thank God for putting it earlier on, so I quickly re-applied for BSc. Hons (Ap. SCI)...*

This issue delayed me in securing admission being that I had already gotten a scholarship. I got a provisional scholarship award in October pending my admission that manage to come through in December.

3. More information on MCFSP

In 2016, only 3 persons we awarded the scholarship from Nigeria (3 males). We have never had a female scholar from Nigeria directly (its usually those who are already here in SA). I can categorically confirm with you that the program is currently seeking more students from Nigeria. In fact, there was a team at some top Nigerian universities last year to recruit for scholars.

- The scholarship is seeking for financially disadvantage students; ***you must be able to prove that you are from a poor background and in dire need of the scholarship by your essays.***
- ***You must also be able to display leadership potentials;*** they want to know your story, your experiences, what have you done so far... What are you doing, what are your expectations? Long term and short-term goals...

The process for applying for a MasterCard scholarship is quite straightforward and not stressful at all, if you qualify, you will get it. The major is UP admission and Immigration.

Another part is immigration, applying for study visa... It can be really challenging at the moment, so it is very important to start your admission and scholarship application on time to give u ample time for immigration delays. Time is a serious factor. You must plan well if u want to push with it.

The floor is now open for question and answer. Please, put forward your questions

6. Questions & Answers (Q & A)

Q1	Does this scholarship or another one which you may know of cover for PhD?	A1	MasterCard Scholarship (I think everywhere) is only for Masters programs not PhD
Q2	Thank you, sir, for the well-presented lecture, please you talked about doing a year honor degree does this applied to management courses too. Also, concerning the strong final year CGPA, can someone with CGPA of 4.2 also apply?	A2	Yes, on the UP website when you search for MasterCard, you would see the programs and Faculties that they cover. Management Sciences is part of it. One year honors first also applies to management science. Yes, 4.2 CGPA is good enough hopefully.
Q3	I want to ask if application fee to up is free or waved for MCF scholarship applicant.	A3	Its not free, but I think MCF makes provision for a refund if you can secure admission and awarded the scholarship. Same thing for visa application fees, you will be refunded
Q4	Do I need to secure a supervisor during my application?	A4	If you are allowed to apply directly for masters program, den you must get a supervisor...

Q5	Is SAQA still required for MSC? Do they waive application fee?	A5	SAQA is very much required, the application fee is not waived
Q6	Is this scholarship also available for applicants who want to study chemistry?	A6	Yes, all Natural Sciences... But you must confirm on the scholarship page in the school website www.up.ac.za
Q7	1. Is TOEFL/IELTS a mandatory requirement for Nigerian applicants? 2. Is it a must to undergo One year Honour Degree b4 doing MSc? 3. Do I need to contact Graduate Coordinator of my department before applying for the scholarship?	A7	1. It depends on your department... Some departments don't require it 2. Also depends on the department, for engineering, management ad natural sciences... YES 3. Yes you can explore that for first class information... Otherwise you can find all necessary answers on the website.
Q8	Thank you so much Scholar Emmanuel for taking your time to take this lecture tonight, It have been very interesting so far. 🙏🙏 Q1. Please can you elaborate more on "SAQA evaluation certificate" which is one of the requirements for UP admission. How can we get from it from Nigeria at this time?	A8	Currently, due to the pandemic lock-down, all offices are not really functional... I put in an application for someone and up till now no news. However, the cheapest and best way to get it is for a reliable person to put in ur application here in SA instead of going through the rigorous process of international courier service
Q9	Thank you for the lecture. 1. Does the scholarship covers for all Masters program at UP? 2. I can only download a PDF document to be filled out to apply for the scholarship, is that the only required document? Please, explain on this.	A9	1. Not all masters programs, only in some Faculties, Engineering, Building, IT, Natural and Management Sciences 2. That pdf is the scholarship application form. U need other documents like CV, transcripts, degree, international passport etc.
Q10	My question is regarding the SAQA, I connected the email on the application portal, and I was told that SAQA certificate is not required for B.Eng(Hons).	A10	Yes SAQA is not needed if u already studied in SA for ur first degree. Also You cannot apply for B.Eng Hons because you did not do your first degree at UP. You can only apply for BSc. Hons (Ap. Sci.)
Q11	How long does it take the admission decision to come out? And please, Is the Bsc(Hons) applicable to all course as I can only see BEng(Hons) for Electrical Engineering	A11	Admission process can take up to 3 months. BSc Hons is not applicable to all departments. I think for Electrical engineering, you can only apply for B.Eng (a friend of mine got B.Eng Hons while we got BSc. Hons 😞) and please make sure that you are sure you don't need saqa... So long you did not do first degree in SA, you will need SAQA

Q12	<p>Thank you, Scholar Emmanuel, for this wonderful lecture.</p> <p>I want to ask if it is possible to choose a course for BSc Hons different from the BSc you have. For example, having BSc in Biochemistry now applying for BSc hons in Chemical pathology, is this possible?</p>		<p>Yes, there must be a good relationship with both courses. The admission panel is going to look at your final year courses and see if they relate before they can offer admission. What you can do before deciding to switch courses, is to look at the subject requirements of the particular course u want to apply for.</p> <p>You will get all this info when you search for your department on the school's website.</p>
Q13	<p>1. Why is it that UP does not accept straight Masters application except you first enrolled for a BEng (hons).</p> <p>2. Is it possible for MCF to cover both Beng (Hons) and masters at UP.</p>		<p>1.the reason is still unclear to me, but apparently the standards are different. Most times you need the honors to be able to cope for masters.</p> <p>Some depts that will accept you for masters are very likely to make you take some course work too.</p> <p>PS. Masters at UP is purely research, not taught</p> <p>2. Yes, MCF covers both honors and masters but u must pass your honors and be accepted for masters in your department. There is no room for failure. If u fail honors, the scholarship is automatically terminated. No masters</p>
Q14	Is the scholarship available for construction technology and QUANTITY SURVEYING students?		<p>I'm not sure, I think this is related to Civil Engineering department.</p> <p>Please get more info from the scholarship page on the school website.</p> <p>(I will share it here when I lay my hands on it)</p>
Q15	Is it compulsory to have a passport number before applying?		Yes, very compulsory.
Q16	Sir, thanks for the lecture, according to MasterCard application form, it was stated that we should send the MCF application form after admission has been secured in one of the listed department...since the admission application takes up to 3months, how do we go about that?		<p>Admission cannot be fully secured before you submit your MCF application...</p> <p>When you start applying for admission there's a temporary student application number (EMPLID) given to you. It's temporary, its that number that you can use for your scholarship application.</p>
Q17	How much does SAQA cost?		<p>The application fee is R1900.</p> <p>Your school in Nigeria might require you to pay for transcripts verification, that cost varies according to universities.</p>

Q18	Is it a must we secure a supervisor before getting admitted? Most especially engineering students		As Engineering students, you cannot get straight admission to masters program at UP. U must come for honors first. While you are at honors degree, you will be able to identify a supervisor that will supervise yoUr masters the following year.
Q19	Is the scholar available to review our essays for this particular scholarship?		Depends on my time schedule... I don't mind having another lecture about the scholarship application and essays writing when it is time
Q20	So are you now saying an Electrical Engineering graduate from Nigeria can apply for B. Eng(Hons)?		Yes, very correct.

7. Appreciation Message

We say thank you to our amiable lecturer, Scholar Emmanuel, for honouring the invitation for the lecture. We appreciate your time and effort for the well-delivered lecture despite your tight schedule.

Thanks to our scholars too for following up with the lectures.

I am sure we will take immediate action owing to the information we were equipped with.

Compiler: **Alugo Idris Olawale**
For: International Scholarship Forum [ISF]