My fascination with engineering and technology began since my childhood days. As a child, sitting by my father’s side while he reeled off to me the latest advancement in technology intrigued me greatly and I always looked forward to such precious moments. Like many other children, I had the privilege of owning so many electronic toys which my parents bought me. I still remember vividly staring at and wondering how the toys operated. For several days I would occupy my mind with the imaginations of the gadget’s internal make-up and principle of operation. Magic it was to me, or something like it. Not long after, with screw drivers and pliers to match from my father’s toolbox in my hands, I would proceed to dismantle the technological invention and try as much as possible to digest the much I could from my scrutiny. As little as I was then, say 5 or 6 years old, I understood the little I could hence satisfying my suspense and my further attempts to couple up the gadget always proved effectual. I had a natural flair for technology which was to be expressed later.

My high school days saw my talent evolve into expression. I started by changing faulty sockets and switches; installing and replacing lighting fixtures; mounting ceiling fans; replacing burnt fuses, plugs, and wires; fixing and changing of lamp holders, bulbs, etc. round the house. This I did to near perfection. My mother indeed never saw the need to call an electrician at those moments. With no prior formal engineering education, I constructed several electrical extensions using well-cut and polished wood as base; mounted and installed a change-over unit for our 3.5kW home generator single-handed by simply reading the installation manual; effectively ran the electric cable for the generator through the ceiling and linked up the cable to the change-over unit; correctly troubleshot faulty electronics and even repaired a few of them that had minor faults such as burnt capacitors, fuses, and transformers. These feats and many others left my mother astonished. My full-time exposure to computers was to come later - I didn’t own a personal computer till I got into college. I graduated from high school in 2006.

I gained admission in 2007 to study electrical engineering in the university. During my five years at the University of Nigeria Nsukka, I underwent a rigorous but rich, rewarding and computer-focused academic curriculum. I learned the necessary basics, theory and practical knowledge of electrical and electronic engineering. I qualified for and won two different scholarships, both I won in my freshman and sophomore years and were renewed continually every year till I graduated. I also won another in my final year. During my compulsory 6 months industrial training (IT) program in my 400 level, I got posted to the only power company of my country. I had the opportunity of working in the computer room of the organization. There I got exposed to and familiar with the operations of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Also at this time, I carried out a research on a topic assigned to me by my department on the load management methods of the area and prepared a seminar report which I submitted and presented on return to school. Similarly, I also carried out another research on the design and analysis of buck converters which was a mini-project. The seminar and mini-project both turned out exemplary. I also utilized my IT period to run a computer program, the Microsoft Certified Information Technology Professional (MCITP) program, which I completed after college graduation.

In my final year, I was assigned a project topic that involved deep research and analysis of the power distribution network of my university and drafting the 2D CAD design of the campus electricity network using AutoCAD®. The knowledge gained during my IT proved very useful during my project research. I went about my research by severally visiting the campus’ library and exploring the internet for constructive information; looking up particular past research works of lecturers and graduated outstanding students in the departmental library; paying several scheduled visits to the campus’ electrical unit for research data, materials and information; visiting the campus’ town’s injection substation for data on the campus’ and town’s alternative sources of power supply; obtaining an old existing paper design of the campus’ network and painstakingly going round campus, under the supervision of my supervisor, verifying the diagram and effecting the recent changes made; and then proceeding to draft the 2D CAD drawing using AutoCAD®, that turned out not only comprehensive but electronic, updated and unprecedented. Also noteworthy is the research I conducted for Dr. B. O. Anyaka, the Head of Department, during his extended period of research writing and publication. I gained first-hand knowledge of academic research and publications. In my entire undergraduate years I grew proficient in several computer applications such as MS-Word, Excel, Power point, AutoCAD, MATLAB etc. I bagged my first degree, Bachelor of engineering, magna cum laude. My GRE scores may be mediocre but it certainly does not define nor limit my academic capabilities.

As a student the ENTS program, I intend to make a direct significant contribution to the growth and advancement of the field of Telecommunications through my studies and research. I have chosen to undertake graduate studies at the ENTS department, University of Maryland (UM) because of its well-structured, rich and practical engineering curricula and unique combination of engineering and business cross-disciplinary course works. My fields of interest span over a wide range of areas. I am particularly fascinated by networking, wireless communications and cyber security. I am also fascinated by entrepreneurship. I would benefit from the program’s joint entrepreneurship program which will not only provide me with the rare opportunity to further hone my leadership, management and entrepreneurial skills but will also properly equip me to take up managerial positions in an ever vibrant telecommunications industry. I strongly feel I have received the remarkable academic preparation, work and ethic from my bachelor’s degree program required to be an efficient graduate student at your university. As my transcripts indicate, I have always performed excellently on engineering mathematics courses throughout my undergraduate years and, also, have sufficient engineering mathematics background, having taken engineering mathematics courses from first year through fourth year.

As my essay indicates, a master’s degree from the ENTS program is the next laudable step towards achieving my long-term goals.