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AUFIN's Sample of Personal Statement Letter

My name is Anthony Kofi. I live in Ghana and come from a family of three. Back in 2010, Ghana became a full-blown commercial oil producer. The country was thrilled when an offshore Jubilee oil field was discovered and had dreams of how it would improve the country's economic standing. Of course, I was too young to understand any of this, however I would hear my family talk about Ghana's future and how it was going to rise. That became my inspiration.

I graduated from high school in June 2020 from Nungua Senior High school. I completed my studies with an overall grade of B1. My top four academic subjects were Physics, Chemistry, Math and English. I have scored an overall score of 6.0 bands in IELTS (Listening - __, Speaking - __, Reading - __, and Writing - __). I always had a passion for the STEM courses. Math came natural to me. I was part of the math club and participated in the International Mathematical Olympiad in 2019. I placed 6th out of all the high schools in my region, which is an achievement I am very proud of. I have provided a certificate to show my credentials. In high school, I took welding courses. I knew I wanted to be an engineer and I have dreams of becoming the top engineer in the oil industry. I completed the required workshops and successfully earned a certification in welding. My high school success is just the start of my journey to becoming the top production engineer in Ghana.

My father runs a business of managing 3 hotels in Ghana. He earns approximately 28,000 GHS per month, which is about 3,402.00 Pound sterling per month. He has owned and managed these hotels for 20+ years. He owns Rocky City Hotel in Ghana which is one of the most well-known and largest hotels in Ghana. Most of his profit comes from this one hotel alone, which is why he is able to assist me in pursuing an international degree. The business is going well and we are financially secure. I have provided financial documents that show evidence of the different hotels my father owns and the combined annual income that they generate and how much we have in our savings account. My mother is a housewife who not only takes care of the home and manages the household bills, but is also my father's personal assistant at the hotels.

While my family's business is hospitality, I aspire to be a production engineer in Ghana. While it would be easier and less costly to follow my father's footsteps and take over the hotel business, we are two very different individuals. The hotel business is very good to my family, however I dream of helping the country of Ghana. I have a cousin who is really interested in the hospitality industry and follows my father around everywhere even at his younger age. He seems more

suited to takeover the business. I am interested in engineering and the sciences. I personally would not find any educational growth or satisfaction from the hotel business. Throughout high school I've always had a passion to give back to my country, to build my country, to assist my country economically. I have done research on what jobs are currently in high demand and what jobs pay well in my country to confirm that my dream is sustainable. Today, the oil industry in Ghana is promising. If I achieve my goal of becoming a top production engineer in Ghana, I could potentially earn 7,400 GHS/month (899 GBP/month). I have researched job vacancies in Ghana to see what opportunities are out there for an aspiring engineer in the oil and gas industry. I have come across websites such as: jobwebghana.com, jobhouse.com and gh.jobomas.com, and there are positions for entry level graduates such as a CCR Production Technician, a petroleum at Total Petroleum Company, as well as engineers at International Energy Services. I have provided screenshots of the websites I have searched. I am the only child to my mother and father and as my parents get older I will need to look after them. Once I obtain my degree, I do not intend to live anywhere but in Ghana. I am determined to assist my country and contribute to its economic growth.

Understanding that an international education will give me exposure to a global network and introduce me to advanced technologies not available in Ghana, I started researching the best places to study. I discovered that the UK is the second most popular destination for international students after the United States. I started exploring the benefits of studying in the UK and discovered that holding a degree in the UK university is well recognized in Ghana, and it will help me stand out as I apply for jobs. Many of the world's industry leading companies have operations in the UK; making a significant contribution to the world's economy. I want to learn from these international companies and be exposed to advanced technologies that will give me the upper hand when I return to Ghana. It is my goal to start my own business where I can teach my peers and help Ghana gain a stronger footing in the global economy. I will be consulting with my father about business related matters as he is very experienced in starting a company and feel the UK education system would help me develop my knowledge in this field to put me ahead of potential competitors in Ghana.

I am applying to University A. I am applying for the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Instrumentation and Control Engineering. I am hoping to do a combined double major including renewable energy engineering, which is one of the huge benefits of going to this University. I will benefit from their practical approach to learning and the hands-on experience offered. I will get to interact with industry experts who excel in research and have laboratory facilities on campus. The University offers 480 hours of real work experience as part of the degree. The University has a real world engineering plant, wherein I will be able to explore state-of-the art technologies and gain skills that I can take back to my country. Where resources lack in Ghana, the facilities at University A definitely make up for it. Other than the fact that the University ranked #1 in the UK in 2019 for teaching and overall experience in Engineering, the key word that attracts me to this university is teaching. I will be taught production engineering not only by leading experts in the industry, but also taught using resources that are not available to me in Ghana. This

program will set me up for a lifetime of success in the oil production industry in Ghana.

University A is located in UK REGION. It is about a 20 minute drive from CITY NAME and is accessible using public transport. I plan to live in the University Village which is located on campus. I know the cost of living in Perth is less than in Sydney and there is easy access to supermarkets, either on campus or within walking distance. I enjoy playing soccer and will spend a lot of my free time at the University's Sports Centre. There is a train station that can take me outside of the city in my spare time. In my semester break I am also very much looking forward to taking a trip to Rottnest Island to take a picture with the quokkas.

Ghana's Universities are not financially supported in terms of growing the oil and production industry. Unfortunately our resources are limited, and the books and knowledge are outdated. I believe that knowledge is the key to expansion and growth, and the reason why our industry is not where it could be, is due to a lack of new ideas and technologies. This is why studying at University A will assist me in leading Ghana to new growth and opportunities. Sometimes it takes a new set of eyes and a new way of thinking to really push the economy to success.

As I researched other countries, although the USA holds the record for top oil and gas production in the industry and their universities are ranked high for their degree education, what they lack in comparison to University A is a passion for the degree. After visiting some University websites such as the University of Texas at Austin, as well as the University of Wyoming, the course description focuses mainly on the starting salaries domestic students will make once they graduate. The Universities don't mention the hands on experience available or any of the other benefits of earning a degree at those universities. This leaves Canada or the UK. Currently, NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) is excelling in their oil and production programs, however, while their courses may be less expensive they are typically 2 year diploma programs that would not provide me with the same credentials. They also lack a resource that University A has; it currently runs a \$10 million operational plant that would allow me to see how a large scale operation runs. Attending University A will give me hands-on experience. While we are not as fortunate to work with a plant of this size in my country, it will allow me to dream bigger. Currently, Ghana ranks 84th in the oil industry, however, I believe with the skills and qualifications that I earn in Australia, I can help make this ranking much higher. My focus is to give back to my community, so my search involves finding a University whose faculty share this same passion. I want to be taught by teachers that invest in their students and ensure that each student has reached their full potential. University A was ranked #1 in Australia for teaching and overall experience in Engineering.

Comparison of Universities

University	Program	Annual Tuition Cost	Length of program/Qualificati on obtained

<i>University of Texas</i>	<i>Production Engineering</i>	<i>\$42,491 USD</i>	<i>4 years - Bachelors Degree</i>
<i>University of Wyoming</i>	<i>Petroleum Engineering</i>	<i>\$30,718 USD</i>	<i>4 years - Bachelors Degree</i>
<i>Northern Alberta Institute of Technology</i>	<i>Petroleum Engineering Technology</i>	<i>\$18,000 -27,000 CDN</i>	<i>2 years- Diploma</i>
<i>University A</i>	<i>Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Instrumentation and Control Engineering</i>	<i>\$29,904 GBP</i>	<i>4 years - Bachelors Degree</i>

The tuition cost is \$29,904 GBP per year, the annual cost of living is approximately \$22,000, and travel and health insurance costs are an additional \$4,000. This will be covered by my father. My father owns and manages a number of hotels and I have uploaded financial documents, including bank statements, to show that he indeed has enough money to cover the costs of my tuition and living accommodations. I am also aware that legally I can work up to 20 hours per week. I plan on obtaining a part-time job to assist with any extra spending money that is required.

I have not been refused any visa before, as this is my first time traveling outside Ghana. I do not have any major allergies or health issues that require monitoring while studying in the UK. I am applying for a student visa, and I understand the rules and regulations I need to follow while studying in the UK. I am aware that I will remain enrolled in the registered course as a full-time student, I will maintain good attendance in my course for each semester as well as remain enrolled in the course that I was granted my student visa for in the UK.

I am ready to see a change in Ghana. I am ready to be that change. I understand I am one person, but with the exposure to the new learning methods at University A, I am confident that I will help lead my country to great success. Ghana will finally see progression in the oil industry it has been wanting for the past 10 years.

Thank-you

Anthony

Kofi

Please provide screenshots of evidence that you have researched about your future career opportunity in your home county .

CCR Production Technician at Reputable Company

15 Sep 2020

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A company in the Oil and Gas industry based in Ghana is seeking to employ candidates for the following roles on full time basis

Job Title: CCR Production Technician

Job Summary

- Carry out the safe operation of CCR for process plant and production related equipment safely and efficiently, under the direction of the process superintendent and production supervisor
- Responsible for the operation of the CCR DCS system via monitor and controls the Process systems, fire and Gas systems, utility systems and subsea systems