

**PERSONAL STATEMENT FOR GRADUATE ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP
CONSIDERATION**

One of the greatest leaders and change agents of the 21st century, Nelson Mandela, once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon with which you can change the world”.

With this quote in mind, and with the resilience of an ox, I exemplified academic excellence during my stay in school and climbed up the academic ladder. I cannot agree more with Henry Ford when he said “whether you think you can or you think you can’t, you are right.”

Growing up, it was disheartening to see farm produce rot on farms after harvesting, due mainly to the poor nature of the transport infrastructure linking the producing areas to the market centres. As such, frequent breakdown of trucks and the poor nature of roads prolonged travel times from the hinterlands to the market centres. Inadvertently, food shortages were the order of the day. It was estimated in 2010 that 25% of harvested crops got rotten on farms in Ghana. This often, than not, led to a grave loss of investment by the poor farmer. I thus sought to find answers to the many questions I had in Transport Systems and Distribution Networks. This saw me specialising in Logistics and Supply Chain at the School of Business during my four-year undergraduate studies at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi Ghana. During this period, I gained insight in courses such as Logistics Management, Transportation and Distribution Management, Business Law as well as Supply Chain Management. My curiosity to know more about Transport Systems and networks drove me into writing a final year dissertation on *'The domestic aviation sector of Ghana'* under the supervision of Dr Jonathan Annan and Mr Emmanuel Quansah of the KNUST School of Business.

I am of the believe that, a complete education goes beyond what is taught and learnt in classrooms to include field trips, seminars and internships. I therefore took up an eight-week internship with the Ameen Sangari Soap Factory in Cape Coast, Ghana, where I performed various warehouse and inventory management functions. I again served as a staff assistant at the Kwadaso SDA Hospital's Procurement Unit, with oversight responsibility for stores management. Not only that, I made it a point to attend various seminars on themes relating to the Logistics and Transport sector.

I was actively involved in extra-curricular activities during my undergraduate years, serving as a Lead Member of the Students' Association's Electoral Committee that successfully introduced the electronic voting system in the University and doubled as the Deputy Class President of the Logistics Class of 2013. I was also a member of my Resident Hall's football, hockey and handball teams during my freshman year of studies.

Notwithstanding these commitments and engagements, I graduated with First Class Honours, ranking in the Top 5% in the Logistics Class of 2013 (both full time and part time students).

Due largely to my academic excellence, I was retained by the Department of Information Systems and Decision Sciences (now Department of Supply Chain and Information Systems) as a Teaching and Research Assistant. To broaden my outlook and gain professional perspectives on issues in the field of logistics and transport, I enrolled with the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, UK (Ghana Branch) during this period. I am an affiliate of the Institute and currently working on my professional qualification thesis captioned; *'The prospects and challenges of Third Party Logistics in Ghana.'*

The global marketplace today is very competitive and to survive, businesses must not only be efficient but also adopt best practices in their operations including their supply chains. It is an open secret that the majority of indigenous Ghanaian businesses are not competitive in the global marketplace. Indeed, I have come to realize that to be able to achieve the status of world-class service delivery, firms in Ghana will need more professionals in the field of operations, supply chain and logistics management to streamline and iterate processes to make them not only effective, but also efficient, and with transportation as the engine of supply chains, more and more experts are needed in the field of transport logistics management.

I am currently a Private Research and Data Analyst involved in data collection, analysis and presentation as well as providing tutoring services to undergraduate students in the fields of Statistics, Logistics and Warehouse Management.

My choice of graduate studies at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University was influenced by the fact that A & T has a serene and conducive learning atmosphere and the contribution of its research findings (especially in transportation and supply chain management) to the global economy is immense. A look at the Department of Marketing, Transportation and Supply Chain's

website shows a strong faculty such as Dr. Joseph Huscroft, Dr Kathryn Dobie, Dr. Kofi Obeng, Dr. Linda Coley, Dr Shona Morgan among many others whose research works have, and continue to contribute towards helping shape opinions and increase discussions in the areas of purchasing, materials management, logistics, transportation and supply chain management.

To be able to contribute to research and knowledge in this field, it is imperative to get the best of tuition and research direction, and with the staff at Aggie, I am more than confident I would get the very best of teaching, coaching and direction. Indeed, the opportunity to study at North Carolina A & T State University will broaden my horizon and propel me to become a top notch expert in supply chain and logistics management.

Upon completion of the programme, I will contribute my quota through implementing systems and processes that yield the best possible output in terms of efficiency in delivery. With the increasing globalised operations of multinational companies, more and more young talents are needed in this industry and I hope to inspire and be a motivation to other young people who would want to take up careers in this sector. After gaining some practical experience in the industry, I will pursue a PhD in Management Science. Ten years from now, I envisage being a fully-fledged research and teaching professional at the tertiary level of education to help train the next generation of Operations, Logistics and Supply Chain professionals.

It would be a dream come true to secure admission to the prestigious North Carolina A&T State University. It would, however, be rather unfortunate if my financial situation shatters my dream of becoming a Transport and Supply Chain Management expert. I do hope that I will be given financial assistance as I embark on this journey at and with A&T.

I am fully prepared for the task ahead in pursuant of graduate education and pledge to maintain very high standards at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

I am looking forward to joining you in Spring 2017.

Thank you.