

Celebrating 10 years of the  
Loughborough University Development  
Trust Africa Scholarships



Since 2006, the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust has been supporting the Loughborough University Development Trust Africa (LUDTA) Scholarships. As the 10th academic year of the scholarship programme comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to personally say thank you to the Trustees and the Trust for their continued commitment and loyalty in supporting these important scholarships.

The LUDTA scholarships have been instrumental in encouraging and enabling students from Africa to study for a postgraduate degree at Loughborough.

The programme has supported 55 students to date and continues to attract hundreds of talented applicants each year.

This booklet is a testimony to the incredible impact the scholarships have had on the recipients. It highlights some of the scholars following their graduation and some of the ways that the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust has helped to transform their lives.

Thank you for your support. We are proud to work with the Trust and look forward to maintaining and developing the scholarship programme for many years to come.



*Professor Bob Allison  
Vice-Chancellor and President*



### Every year, Loughborough University receives hundreds of applications for study from students across Africa.

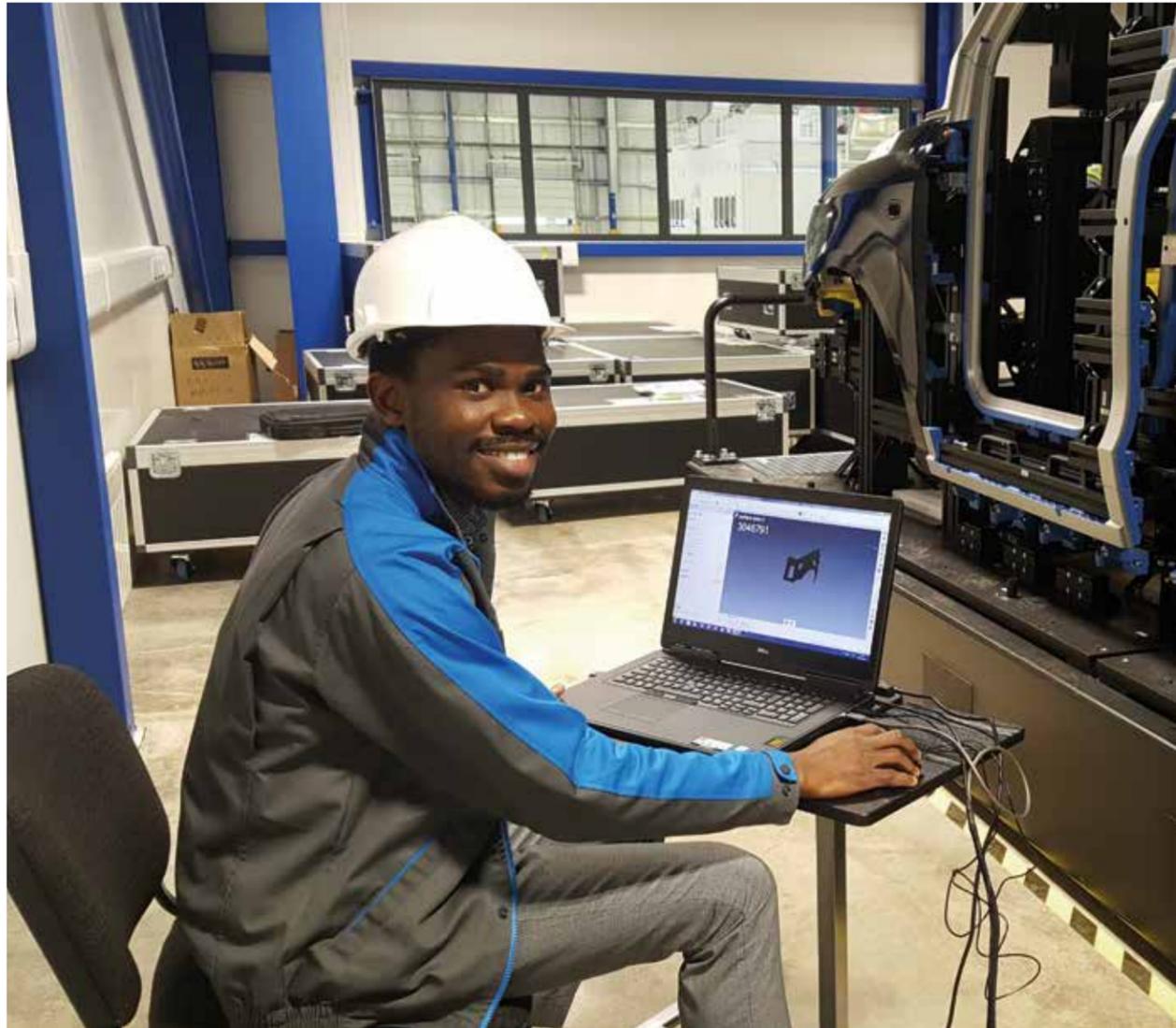
Many of these candidates are students with excellent academic grades and a strong conviction to make a positive difference to their local community and the World, though often these individuals are in search of funding to realise their ambitions.

Having been involved with the allocation of the LUDTA Scholarship awards over the last five years, it is a privilege to support the students in their quest for personal and community development, which – thanks to the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust – has been made a reality for over fifty individuals.

Whilst the impact of the award on the individual is clear, there is also an impact on the institution which benefits from these best and brightest minds coming to study here at Loughborough. Once here, these students often become involved in more than just their studies, and their contribution to life on campus helps to broaden the horizons and awareness of the rest of the student body. Following graduation, we still receive updates from some of these scholars who have gone on to obtain PhD awards, start families and make significant contributions to positive change in their communities. The impact of the award is far reaching, and much appreciated.



*Alicia Butterfield  
International Office*



## Olumide Osokoya

Automotive Systems Engineering, 2016  
Nigeria

I worked as a junior mechanical engineer in Nigeria, first with a construction company and later in an assembly plant, before getting the scholarship to come to the UK.

The scholarship provided my full tuition fees which made it easy for me to focus squarely on my academic pursuits and think less about finances. I got the scholarship to study Automotive Systems Engineering at a time when I was interested in joining the automotive industry and growing my career. The scholarship therefore paved the way for me to become who I am today.

After graduating from Loughborough, I joined the automotive industry, working for a company which is set to deliver new brands of passenger and commercial vehicles. I currently serve as the Launch Coordinator, coordinating the working team set up to accelerate the vehicle launch process.

My career achievement today is a testament to the magnanimity of the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust. I am forever grateful for the confidence instilled in me and the opportunity of a lifetime.

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## Prince Attakorah

Mathematical Finance, 2016  
Ghana

I am working as an Actuarial Analyst at Stallion Consultants Limited in Ghana. Currently, I am undertaking SOA Fundamental in Actuarial Profession (FAP) modules, hoping to be an Associate of Society of Actuarial by winter next year. I wouldn't have been able to do this without the scholarship from the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust.

The scholarship alleviated the burden of paying fees and helped me experience everything Loughborough University had to offer. It gave me an opportunity to learn stochastic Mathematics which is gradually being merged with actuarial science programmes and becoming more important in the role I do.

The Master's course in Mathematical Finance gave me an edge over my other competitors for my current role and for this I am very grateful.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn MSc Mathematical Finance at Loughborough University. I appreciate everything and it was a nice experience overall from cultural to academic. Thanks once again.

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*"It gave me an opportunity to learn stochastic Mathematics which is gradually being merged with actuarial science programmes and becoming more important in the role I do."*  
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## Lawrence Quaye

International Relations, 2015  
Ghana

The scholarship meant so much to me as it gave me the opportunity to adjust to a new environment and experience the British culture. It exposed my intellect to new information and method of learning than what I was used to back home in my country. I used the scholarship to study for my Master's programme in International Relations.

The scholarship also gave me the opportunity to meet new people and make amazing friends who are now part of my life. Indeed it did change my life positively since I'm currently located in the States and working with a good organisation to impact lives around the world. Without such a scholarship I wouldn't have got that opportunity to get a good job in a very advanced country.

I am currently working with a Non-Governmental Organization as a program assistant. Before then I took the Law Entrance Exam (LSAT) in the States, in order to go to law school next year to fulfil my dream of becoming an international attorney.

When I applied for my current role, unbeknown to me there were Loughborough alumni in my organisation, who were pleased to have a recipient of such a prestigious scholarship apply. Because I detailed my scholarship on my resume it sent a strong signal to my employers that I was an outstanding candidate, since I have been able to win such a competitive award. For such purposes, the scholarship contributed to me securing my dream job.

Without the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust's support, my dreams wouldn't have been a reality. I now have a high paying job due to my Master's programme with Loughborough and I'm forever grateful for your support. A 'Thank You' wouldn't be enough for how you have changed my life! I pray the Almighty God grants you more financial blessings, in order to continue this noble gesture for others to also benefit and realise their dreams, thus making the wishes of others a reality for a safe, secure and loving world. I will forever be grateful.



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*“The fact that I benefited so greatly from a charitable deed inspired me in my philanthropy journey. In 2015, I set up a charity here in Lagos, which focuses on providing food and clothing for less-privileged women and children.”*  
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## Oluwademilade Fowowe

Finance and Management, 2013  
 Nigeria

Before I studied at Loughborough, I had just completed my Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and worked as a Client Relations Officer in Lagos, Nigeria.

The scholarship had a tremendous impact on my life at the time, which remains with me till this day and always will! Receiving a scholarship from the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust to cover my tuition fees greatly eased the financial burden associated with attending a prestigious university. The scholarship allowed me to focus my energy on adjusting to living in England, learning and generally enjoying my time in Loughborough.

The personal benefits of the scholarship were so huge and remain so! It changed my life and gave me the opportunity to be exposed to life outside of Lagos, Nigeria which I will forever cherish. The opportunity allowed me to meet so many different people from all over the world, which immensely broadened my mind and educated me on differences in culture around the world. England is my second home now and I try to visit once every two years.

After my studies at Loughborough University, I returned to Nigeria to find a job in Investment

Management. Though I studied Finance and Management, my degree from a respected foreign institution afforded me the opportunity to get a job as an Investment Portfolio Manager within three months of my return.

Also, the fact that I benefited so greatly from a charitable deed inspired me in my philanthropy journey. In 2015, I set up a charity here in Lagos, which focuses on providing food and clothing for less-privileged women and children.

We intend to commence grants of annual scholarships to at least two pupils at Primary and Secondary education levels from September 2017.

I just want to say thank you for supporting the scholarships and for making my life much easier. The scholarship opened a door of opportunity that has helped me so greatly in my career and still provides me with respect whenever people see my resume or it is mentioned that I attended Loughborough University. All of this is only possible because the Trust enabled me to have the opportunity.

Thank you so much; I remain indebted to the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust.



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*“The LUDTA scholarship provided me with a once in a life-time opportunity of studying abroad in one of the best UK academic institutions.”*  
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## Elsie Boateng

Finance and Management, 2009  
 Ghana

The LUDTA scholarship was a life changing experience. I got the opportunity to study in a top ranked university in the United Kingdom. It also gave me the chance to meet and socialise with people from different parts of the world. The knowledge I acquired from the course was immeasurable and has been of immense benefit to me in my line of work.

After graduation I came back to Ghana. Due to the MSc in Finance and Management I acquired from Loughborough, I moved to the operations department of the bank I worked for before coming to the UK, and was quickly made Head of Operations of a branch.

I would like the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust to know that the scholarship has greatly improved and impacted my life positively. It is my prayer that the scheme continues to help more students from Africa to achieve higher education. Thank you.

## Avias Nare

Materials Science and Technology, 2015  
 Zimbabwe

The LUDTA scholarship immensely impacted my life through the significant contribution to my out-of-state tuition, and it allowed me to focus more on my studies, assignments and projects. I used the scholarship to pay for my MSc Materials Science and Technology tuition fees during the academic year 2014/15.

The LUDTA scholarship provided me with a once in a life-time opportunity of studying abroad in one of the best UK academic institutions. I am very grateful for that and now my life has changed in many ways. I am now a holder of an MSc and in my second year of PhD study. The scholarship was a window to my academic progress.

I am studying a PhD in Advanced Materials Processing, specialising in the development and processing of solid-state lithium-ion battery electrolytes. Most of the skills I am applying today were gained during MSc study, which was supported by the LUDTA scholarship. The scholarship enabled me to gain the MSc qualification, which was one of the requirements to study a Doctor of Philosophy Degree.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust for the support they have given me. I am so grateful for the opportunities this award has provided me. Due to my background, I rely on financial aid and grants to help finance my education. Receiving this scholarship helped reduce my financial burdens and provided assistance for me as I pursued my MSc studies. Thank you very much and may God bless the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust so that they change many more lives of African children who are very wise and in need.

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## Gasim Ibrahim

Advanced Chemical Engineering with IT and Management, 2014  
Sudan

The scholarship ensured that I could attend Loughborough for my MSc degree in Advanced Chemical Engineering. Without it, I would not have been able to pursue the degree, as the economic situation in Sudan is a mess, and the expenses needed to cover a postgraduate degree are a far reach in Sudan.

Having the scholarship to cover my tuition fees meant I could spend my own savings on maintenance costs. This allowed me to focus all my efforts in the UK into my academic, social, and professional life. Without it, I would not have been able to become an elected member of the Students' Union Executive team, which I would argue provided almost an equivalent amount of benefits as to what my degree offered. It allowed me to meet new people, gain invaluable work experience, create large networks, spend countless hours volunteering, and still graduate with a distinction!

I am currently working as a Physics/Chemistry teacher at a secondary school. However, I am also the project manager for an independent project that aims to promote science education in Sudan (SEED Sudan). The project is funded by the USA State Department, and won its finance through an international competition. My time in the UK helped solidify the value of volunteering and civil society work, and this greatly influenced my choice to pursue many activities, this project being one of them.

Thank you very much to the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust for my scholarship. The whole experience has enriched me in many ways. I greatly appreciate your contribution.

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## Daniel Fiadzeawu

Internet Computing and Network Security, 2016  
Ghana

The scholarship gave me a different insight of life where technology is at the forefront of solving vast issues in modern society, ranging from health, education, ecommerce, and other applicable areas.

I was also introduced to people with diverse cultures and views. Making friends and interacting with them created that sense of belongingness, confidence and trust in the bigger family (the world). This is because I came to realise that we have so much in common despite our geographical boundaries.

The scholarship really improved my analytical and problem-solving skills. I developed an interest in Internet of Things (IoT) after my wireless networks module whilst studying under the LUDTA Scholarship and ever since I haven't stopped thinking and gathering information on what and how problems in some sectors can be solved in my country.

Another benefit I am happy about is the ability to co-author two academic papers, with one published and the other accepted. This really improved my research skills which I believe is a driving tool in developing a society like my country, Ghana.

Having returned to my country after my graduation in December 2016, I am currently developing software as a freelancer. I also have plans of prototyping a smart irrigation system as a model to improve the agricultural sector in Ghana.

My family and I are profoundly grateful for the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust's kind and caring gesture. My dreams of pursuing a Master's degree were made a reality and it has given me a great reason to always stretch a helping hand to people who need help.

Long Live the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust!  
Thank you so much.

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*"The scholarship really improved my analytical and problem-solving skills. I developed an interest in Internet of Things (IoT) after my wireless networks module whilst studying under the LUDTA Scholarship."*  
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## Eseosa Eguagie

Advanced Process Engineering, 2015  
Nigeria

I really appreciate the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust for the scholarship offer because while studying at Loughborough I saw research in a new perspective; I developed great skills in research, finding problems and proffering solutions, and enhanced my desire to learn, unlearn and relearn, especially in the field of Chemical Engineering.

I met new friends and great friends at Loughborough who in some way helped me in completing my programme successfully, as well as shaped my character positively and I owe a great deal of thanks to the scholarship for this.

I am currently a Postgraduate researcher at Imperial College. Where I am right now is as a result of the Master's degree I obtained at Loughborough University through the help of the LUDTA Scholarship. The coaching, drilling and nurturing during my programme set me up and prepared me to take on this position at Imperial College London.

I would like to say thank you to the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust through Loughborough University for giving students like us from Africa an opportunity to study, and putting great smiles on our faces by helping us live our dreams to the fullest. I really appreciate the Trust and will not let it down with my future career choices.

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*"I developed great skills in research, finding problems and proffering solutions, and enhanced my desire to learn, unlearn and relearn."*  
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## Kudirat Ayinla

Construction Project Management, 2016  
Nigeria

I am proud of myself having been informed that I was amongst the 5 chosen candidates in Africa out of over 250 applicants. This inspired me to work hard during my study at Loughborough considering that I had a rare opportunity to study there. I can say that the scholarship motivated me to work hard for a Distinction and I also came out best in my class.

To start with, the scholarship helped achieve my goal of pursuing a postgraduate degree in a world class university. I wouldn't have been able to pay my tuition independently but the scholarship came to my aid. The scholarship has changed my life completely in terms of achieving a Master's degree in my choice of course which I always aspired for, making me believe in myself and my abilities, opening new opportunities for me in terms of my achievements in my CV and making me aim higher than I would normally have.

I am currently doing a PhD in engineering and the built environment at Birmingham City University, UK. I also secured a scholarship for my PhD and without having the Development Trust Africa Scholarship which led to having a good Master's degree, I doubt I would have been awarded this PhD scholarship.

During my interview, I noticed that the interviewers were impressed with my Master's result and the fact that I secured a scholarship for it. I was asked a series of questions about the award and I think it may have given them reassurance that I could perform well during my PhD. This is why I believe my scholarship was instrumental to my recent achievement.

I would like to say a very big thank you to the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust for changing my life and the lives of many others in achieving our dreams. I can only pay back by making the best use of the opportunity to impact my surrounding community at large. Thank you for believing in me and trusting my abilities.

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*"The scholarship has changed my life completely in terms of achieving a Master's degree in my choice of course which I always aspired for, making me believe in myself and my abilities."*  
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## Richard Gyasie-Hayford

Analytical Chemistry, 2014  
Ghana

I was working as an Operation Officer for Breezer International, a subsidiary of The Quantum Group Limited. My primary role was to ensure the quality delivery of product and services to our customers.

I was lucky to be awarded with an LUDTA scholarship, which helped me to pay my tuition fees and gave me a sound mind to complete my MSc education with Distinction. The scholarship also helped me to achieve my goal of studying Analytical Chemistry at Loughborough University, which shaped my understanding of the Chemistry profession and improved my analytical knowledge. I was also able to fulfil my dreams of graduating with Distinction and Postgraduate award in Chemical Sciences.

After graduation, I returned to Ghana and have been working with The Quantum Group Limited (Downstream Oil & Gas Company) as Project Development Supervisor and Quality Control Manager. My contribution has since won the Company new contracts and improved the quality delivery of existing ones.

The scholarship assisted me in securing the type of education that exposed me to innovative thinking and development of feasible solutions for solving humanitarian problems.

If not for the scholarship, I would not have been where I am. It provided me with the training that changed my knowledge of approaching a problem and developing a solution. When my set goals of solving peculiar humanitarian problems are complete, I will reflect it on the pivotal role the scholarship played in achieving excellence.

I thank the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust who made it possible for the establishment of the LUDTA scholarships and its continued support; I pledge that I shall not disappoint you for their investment.

It is also my prayer and hope that the fund grows to help others realise their dreams.



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## Elijah Adegoke

Mobile Communications, 2012  
Nigeria

The LUDTA scholarship offered me an opportunity to start off my career as an academic. The funding I received was used to cover tuition fees for my MSc.

I believe the scholarship has had a great impact on my life. As an aspiring academic/researcher, successfully completing my MSc in Mobile Communications has given me opportunities to acquire advanced knowledge in the field and experience cutting edge research.

I am currently in the final year of my PhD in Electronic Engineering at Loughborough University. With the help of the scholarship, I was able to complete my MSc, which opened an opportunity for me to continue on to a PhD.

Thank you for your generous contribution to the LUDTA scholarship programme. This has remained an inspiration to me to help others and give back to the community. I do hope I can replicate this kind gesture and help students achieve their goals in the nearest future.

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*"This has remained an inspiration to me to help others and give back to the community. I do hope I can replicate this kind gesture and help students achieve their goals in the nearest future."*  
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