



Windle International Kenya

Alumni Success Stories

Alumna Profile



**James
Maker
Atem**

**Nationality
S. Sudanese**

Camp - Kakuma

Academic Profile:

Bachelor of Conflict Resolution and Humanitarian Assistance, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), December 2016

2021 Recipient of Columbia University Scholarship for Master of International Affairs in the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)

How do you feel about getting this Scholarship Award?

Getting this scholarship means I get a chance to make my dreams come true. This award proves that all my hard work has finally paid off. I am going to do the best I can to make everyone proud.

To start off, this scholarship is a chance for me to pursue the career of my dreams, Master of International Affairs, a career rooted in international politics, humanitarian assistance, conflict resolution, diplomatic processes, human right, climate actions, gender issues and academia.

It is a full scholarship, thus relieving the financial burden associated with this level of higher education. This will allow me to concentrate on my studies at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs with much less distractions. I am keen on gaining adequate knowledge in International Organizations and United Nations Studies which I feel will be useful skills in my home country.

This scholarship will as well enable me to deepen and broaden my diplomatic knowledge in preparing for emerging societal issues. I have intent to undertake multiple international affairs programs which was not possible before due to financial constraints. It presents a golden opportunity for me to further my professional training and certification goals for someone that is keen on true career in diplomacy and politics.

Furthermore, this scholarship opportunity will provide exposure for me to network with international professionals in the field of international affairs, which I feel will greatly influence my career prospects. Additionally, it will give me more opportunities to attend conferences and expose me to newly developed technology.

This scholarship will certainly strengthen my opportunity to take multiple international affairs programs which I was not able to pay for due to my financial burden. The scholarship will help me further my professional training and certification goals that I have set for myself and will in turn help me start a true career in diplomacy and politics.

Overall, this scholarship will help me accomplish my current goals, move on to the next level and eventually become a successful professional in the field of Politics and International relations.

How did being a WIK scholar impact on your personal life and academic achievement.

I was supported under the DAFI scholarship for my undergraduate education between 2013 and 2016 at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in Kenya. I pursued a Bachelor's degree in Conflict Resolution and Humanitarian Assistance program and graduated top of my class.

The Windle International Kenya's DAFI scholarship greatly reduced the financial burden of my family, gave me peace of mind, and facilitated my growth into the person I am today. I was able to concentrate on my studies with much less distractions and because of this was able to pursue my life goals steadily and indefatigably.

Being a WIK scholar widened my horizons and helped me acquire in-depth-knowledge, apposite research skills and real-life experiences to address emerging issues as well as become self-reliant. For example, in my fourth year, I passed exceptionally well and as a routine practice at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, I was offered a graduate assistantship courtesy of merit for the purpose of shadow mentorship. During that time, I served as an Assistant lecturer at the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies for three years. I also presented a research project that was approved unanimously by the department and published in an international peer-reviewed journal courtesy of my expertise in research. I was later admitted to the Graduate School of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology to pursue a Master of Diplomacy and International relations at the School of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

As such, WIK's investment in my education humbled me, and I am now more driven than ever to create a fully rewarding education experience for myself.

The scholarship opened many opportunities for me. Being a recipient of the scholarship was not just about the financial support, it was also about nurturing our potential with the future of our society in mind. This is where we are encouraged to give back to our communities and be positive role models.

Apart from academics, I was engaged in the Students' Governing Council (SGC) in the capacity of an elected students' leader at the Masinde Muliro University Students Organization. Here, I gained the knowledge and leadership skills necessary to make a difference in my school, my community, my country and the world. Over the years, I was elected to several leadership positions and I have realized that if you're elected to a leadership position, you should perform the job duties diligently because many people are counting on you. I have taken this kind of leadership roles to improve many lives in my society including being an academic mentor in various secondary schools and universities in the Camp and beyond.

All these things were possible for me through the kind assistance of Windle International Kenya and the DAFI scholarship Programme who understand the importance of a college education; not just for preparing young adults for their careers, but for adulthood and how to be dynamic members of their societies, whatever their vocations.

Being a WIK scholar for me was prove that anything is possible if we work hard for it. I wouldn't be where I am today if I didn't get this scholarship. For this, I greatly appreciate the generous assistance of Windle International Kenya that enabled me to pursue my educational goals and nurture my talents.

What are your future plans?

The Master of International Affairs at the School of International and Public Affairs will widen my horizons and help acquire in-depth-knowledge, apposite research skills and real-life experiences to address emerging issues of international affairs.

Firstly, I will be able to work with various International Organizations in preservation of international peace, human rights, and climate actions for sustainable growth. I believe after the successful completion of my studies, i will be put at an apex position, whereby it will be possible to engage directly with the South Sudanese government and Non-Governmental Organizations in order to build up community capacities to resist shocks and effects of complex emergencies. I have a very huge educational interest in conducting a study on the Jonglei Canal Project and how it influences the hydro-politics of the Nile states, project i am keen to do at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).

With the situation of my home country in mind, I hope to:

- partner with like-minded stakeholders through my networks at Columbia University such as International Organizations to resolve protracted conflict in South Sudan through long-term reconstruction initiatives to avoid recurrence and build sustainable peace.
- advocate for human rights and fundamental freedom for all South Sudanese without prejudice of gender, age, religion, ethnicity, and sexual orientation as well as promoting climate actions with respect to the Nile basin ventures.

WIK Success Stories

- take part in facilitating reconciliation program amongst the South Sudanese, with emphasis on grassroots, and promote an extensive approach to transitional justice especially through restorative justice program to bring fairness to communities affected by conflict. In order to exert influence for reform in my home country, more emphasis shall be put on the amends, restitution and integration

Additionally, my work through extensive research at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) will seek to bring on new knowledge into the field of International Affairs that will add to and cement already existing knowledge.

Finally, this program will allow me to attain my broader professional goals because I intend to earn a doctorate in Politics and International Relations and thereafter establish myself as a policymaker in South Sudanese government.

To sum it up, the Master of International Affairs at Columbia University will help me achieve my career goals, facilitate peace, promote human rights and climate actions as well as becoming self-reliant in my country.



No.10 Amboseli Road, Off Gitanga Road, Lavington
P.O. Box 40521-00100 Nairobi
Mobile +254 721 551 451, Email: windle@windle.org
Website: www.windle.org