



Department of Economics Student Profile, David Msoffe

2015 was the year I first set foot in MUN, as a 20-year-old international student. Having travelled over 6000 miles from my home country, Tanzania.

I was hell-bent on pursuing a degree in biochemistry. My self-proclaimed accolades for doing so? I was pretty good at sciences. At the time, Economics was not within my field of vision. Going through my first semester as a Biochemistry major, I began to realize that I was incompatible with the academic path I chose for myself. The sciences were fascinating, but I coveted a drive and desire for the things I was learning. I knew I wasn't going to be able to go through a four-year program without this vital ingredient.

Time moved forward and, approaching the winter 2015 semester, I decided to step away from biochemistry and went on a path of self-discovery. I saw academic advisors and consulted friends and family, all in an attempt to find a sense of direction. I eventually chose to spend the semester enrolled in a diverse list of courses. I chose four: Psychology, Statistics, French, and Economics. Classes began and I had no idea what to expect.

To my surprise, I enjoyed every course; however, none more than Economics. What blew my mind, was the vastness of the subject. Understanding aspects of human behavior and extrapolating that information to determine how different resources should be statistically allocated and handled, is a notion that encompasses the entirety of human existence. I, therefore, was inclined to treat economics with an immense amount of respect. The class environment demanded inquisitiveness, just as any other course would, but the difference with Economics was the spirit it brought out in me. I approached it with a sense of passion and fascination that I yearned for since joining MUN. I completed that semester with a sense of direction. By fall of 2016, I decided to join the Cooperative Education program, in pursuit of a Bachelor's of Science degree in Economics.

This current spring semester, I am on my first work term. Under the guidance of Dr. Wade Locke and Dr. Nahid Masoudi, I am working on a research project involving "The implications of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for Economic and Financial Viability of Offshore Oil Projects in Newfoundland and Labrador Located Outside the 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone." The work term has provided a platform where I can apply my research and analytical skills in a more hands on and practical way, as well as network with a vast number of renowned professionals in the oil and gas industry.

The world of Economics has helped create a clearer path for me and it continues to build on it as I learn and expose myself to new fields of study. Granted, there is no way of precisely determining what the future holds, but this nascent drive and passion that I discovered continues to grow and spark a sense of optimism towards what is yet to come.