Daniel Mbogo

MSc Biotechnology, Bioprocessing & Business Management (BBBM)
Daniel is from Kenya and graduated in 2012
He received a Commonwealth Shared Scholarship

Daniel’s background and a bit about why he chose Warwick
My background is in Food Science, having obtained BSc and MSc degrees in Food Science and Technology from the University of Nairobi.

I was attracted to biotechnology while I was carrying out a research project on recovery of carotenoids from extremophile bacteria isolated from Lake Bogoria in Kenya’s rift valley. I realized biotechnology has all the important tools needed to tap into and benefit from the natural resources for the benefit of people and communities in our country. In my search for a school that would provide the right training for my needs, I realized UK universities provide the best training as the sector is well established in this country. I narrowed down to The University of Warwick’s School of Life Sciences as it has a reputable academic image, and the modules covered in BBBM were a perfect match with my academic needs.

Daniel’s first impressions of Warwick
I had an awesome first impression of the university. It was my first time traveling out of Africa and I was a little nervous and worried but the International Office at Warwick did a superb job to ensure I settled in well. They organized a pre-departure briefing in Nairobi and provided important information on visa application, travel logistics and accommodation. The orientation at both the University and department level provided the much needed support to new students to settle down smoothly at the start of the academic program. My key highlight was guidance on how to access library resources online, without it, it would have been very difficult to do assignments on time especially for the modules taught in the beginning of the course.

What did Daniel like most about the University and his degree?
The best thing about BBBM for me was the fact that it’s an all-round MSc programme. It helped me recognize and develop skills such as presentation and communication, writing, business and technical skills in the areas of biotech and bioprocessing in a way that is very practical and relevant to the work I do. Warwick has
students whose backgrounds vary culturally, academically, and professionally. This unique diversity makes Warwick the most ideal place to study. I met and made friends with people from all corners of the world.

**What does Daniel feel he gained from his degree?**

An opportunity to visit new places, meet new people and learn new things. Warwick is a top University and graduating from here comes with an honour that gave me a ‘voice’. Younger people, including high school and college students listen and are inspired by my academic and career experiences. Through this I have been involved in several mentorship programs for high school and college students.

**What is Daniel doing now?**

Currently, I’m working as a value chain technology transfer officer at the International Potato Centre (CIP), Nairobi. The main objective for this role is to work with private sector business enterprises to commercialize orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) from a value chain approach. I coordinate activities to ensure transfer and adoption of transformative technologies for OFSP. I partner with national agricultural research and extension systems, ministry of agriculture, and NGO’s in 12 African countries. Previously I was a research associate/lab manager for the food and nutritional evaluation laboratory (FANEL). FANEL is a CIP program housed within Biosciences for East and Central Africa (BecA) ILRI. I was instrumental in the establishment of FANEL. Today the lab plays a key support role to research programs on OFSP, potato, cassava, banana, maize, and other biofortified staple crops, on breeding and biofortification, post-harvest value addition, product development, and nutrition in CIP and other CGIAR centres.

I don’t think I would have achieved all the above without going through the BBBM MSc programme at Warwick.

**What else did Daniel do during his time at Warwick?**

The student careers and skills organised events such as careers fairs, employer presentations and employer-led skills sessions. I was able to attend a few of these events and I found them to be so informative and helpful in preparing students in job searching and future career growth.

Travelling to historic places such as William Shakespeare’s birth town; Stratford-upon-Avon or great cities such as Liverpool as a group of students from Warwick was quite exciting and memorable.

**Daniel’s advice to prospective students**

BBBM was coordinated by a team of very dedicated people. BBBM students came from very diverse cultures and backgrounds, they made all of us to feel at home. I believe it’s the passion and dedication of the team that has made BBBM grow even stronger over the years.