

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for considering my application for the public health scholarship. As a highly driven, ambitious, and dedicated young female doctor with a passion for medicine, I am thrilled at the prospect of furthering my education with your esteemed support.

Growing up in Ethiopia – a Third World country - I have harbored a deep fascination for the types of life opportunities your organization offers as they align fully with my aspirations, values, and goals. The passion instilled in me to serve fellow Ethiopians has not only driven my academic pursuits but has also shaped my personal and professional goals. I believe that education is not just a means to an end but a lifelong journey of exploration, growth, and contribution to society.

Having provided two years of service in rural Ethiopia in the wake of my doctoral training, my journey has been shaped by the profound experiences of serving in underserved communities, where challenges and shortcomings have become powerful catalysts for my growth and determination. I have witnessed firsthand the critical healthcare disparities that plague rural Ethiopia. Limited resources, inadequate access to medical facilities, and a scarcity of healthcare professionals have posed formidable challenges. However, these challenges have not deterred my commitment; instead, they have fueled my passion to make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. That is why I believe that this scholarship is a remarkable opportunity for me to get the expertise required to directly address these pressing issues.

My journey in rural medicine included a leadership role tasked with community-based training programs through a one-month commitment for five consecutive years. Project goals included active interactions with the rural community, survey data gathering, and collaborating with local stakeholders and administrators. The result was a comprehensive research compendium with targeted actionable goals that allowed implementations of data-driven interventions ranging from health education initiatives to local healthcare deliveries, malnutrition, infectious illnesses, and psychiatric disorders. As a leader of the team, and despite sundry obstacles, I relentlessly pursued innovative solutions, striving to bridge the healthcare gap and provide quality medical care to all community members, regardless of diversities in languages spoken and remoteness of geographic locations. This accomplishment was duly recognized by program administrators as best performing in the field while

my leadership skills served to cultivate strong relationships, network with similarly driven teams, and elevate my interest in public health to the highest degree. This is especially true as my role culminated in direct actions to save the lives of COVID-19 patients in rural Ethiopia.

As is common in every sphere of life and work, there were also stiff challenges beyond my abilities to surmount. A case in point is the derailment of the priorities I set after my undergraduate studies which were sidelined with the start of a civil war that saw my career paths altered and the self-advancement trajectories run off course as I had to adjust to the new dictates of insecurity and instability. Despite the risks of operating in environments of kinetic firefights, and although not earning wages, I tirelessly assisted in the care of patients including those with chronic diseases. This experience strengthened my ability to bounce back from adversity while providing a deep comprehension of the complex challenges my community faced, not to mention the initiatives I run to enhance the quality of healthcare services as the manager of the outpatient department that I created. In this capacity, I promoted the use of task-appropriate medical devices to reduce workload while fighting burnout among personnel by placing restrictions on the daily caseload.

My subsequent journey in self-improvement began with an immersive experience at the Aspire Institute, where I undertook an intensive four-month leadership program, successfully advancing to stage 4. I honed my leadership acumen, team dynamics understanding, and effective problem-solving while at the same time enrolling in short courses facilitated by distinguished institutions such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICiF, with a focus on critical public health issues. These courses broadened my perspective on global health challenges and instilled in me a deep-seated commitment to contribute meaningfully to the field. Noteworthy additions are the webinars I took covering a spectrum of topics serving as platforms for continuous learning by enriching my understanding and equipping me with diverse skill sets that are essential for navigating a dynamic and evolving professional landscape.

These experiences have enhanced my comprehension of the crucial role that public health plays in underdeveloped nations such as Ethiopia. I firmly believe that this scholarship serves as the means to transform my dreams into practical achievements. Its importance goes beyond simple financial assistance, as it represents a chance for me to continue my pursuit of knowledge and dedication to helping others. The scholarship tool assures me the ability to have a significant and enduring influence

on the world by serving as a driving force for transformation. In conclusion, I appreciate your consideration of my application and the trust and confidence shown in students like myself with this exceptional opportunity. The scholarship you provide will not only support my dreams but also motivate me to become a difference-maker and create a future filled with purpose and a community transformed for the better. I look forward to the possibility of discussing my journey and aspirations in more detail.