



UNIVERSITY OF
Global Health
EQUITY

Bachelor of Medicine,
Bachelor of Surgery / Master of
Science in Global Health Delivery
(MBBS/MGHD)

Class of 2025

Letter from the Dean

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the inaugural class of the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery / Master of Science in Global Health Delivery (MBBS/ MGH) integrated degree program. These students have successfully passed a rigorous and holistic admissions process and are now beginning the six and a half year dual degree program.

Learning will take place both inside and outside of the classroom, with a focus on real-world scenarios in the community. MBBS/MGH students will be trained as leaders and advocates, not only as individuals but also for entire health systems. From their first day at UGHE, faculty and staff will provide them with support and mentorship as they progress through the engaging and rigorous curriculum.

The academic program at UGHE will transform students into changemakers. It will equip them with the skills to investigate complex problems with a fresh lens, one that is multidisciplinary, open-minded, and empathetic yet critical. This will be key to addressing global health issues and concerns in a productive, effective and sustainable manner. I would also like to reaffirm our commitment to equity in education and health care, which our students will exemplify throughout the program and take into their careers.

We are confident that this inaugural class of Lions will serve as global health leaders for Africa and beyond, and we are here to support and accompany them through this exciting journey.

Warm Regards,



Abebe Bekele, MD, FCS, FACS
Professor of Surgery
Dean



QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE MBBS/MGH Class of 2025

- ▶ 685 applicants
- ▶ 4.38% acceptance rate
- ▶ 30 students
- ▶ 20 female, 10 male



Marie Immaculée Dusingize

Marie Immaculée Dusingize attended Ecole Notre Dame de la Providence Karubanda in Huye, in the Southern Province of Rwanda, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. At the age of 15, Immaculée co-founded a nonprofit youth organisation called Charity Foundation to collect funds to help poor children in her community. She also was part of the Never Again and Human Rights Club, where she advocated for the vulnerable.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

I find joy in helping vulnerable people, and I find medicine a great platform to allow me to help people find their joy. When I was ten years old, my stomach started constantly hurting. I consulted the best internists and underwent different medical exams, which included an endoscopy. Surprisingly, none of them were able to diagnose my disease, and I still get heavy stomach ache crises. As a result, I have to live on a strict diet to minimize these crises.

This personal experience proved to me that if there are still cases of stomach aches that cannot be fully diagnosed at the highest echelons of internal medicine available in Rwanda, the development of medicine in Rwanda still has a long way to go. I feel a great desire to fill this gap by being involved in the provision of medical services in hospitals located in rural areas, where the problem of few medical practitioners is most prominent. Therefore, I want to become a medical doctor to be able to relieve the sick from pain caused by different diseases.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

I believe it will be an amazing experience to join the MBBS/MGHD program. This is because I have faith in a world class education that I will be acquiring from the program, and I am confident that I will get the best medical education. I also rate the opportunity that the program will be highly research-based, which will increase my understanding of the learning material, my sense of responsibility, a spirit of confidence, and proactivity. I can't forget to mention my exhilaration that I will be meeting other brilliant minds with diverse talents and life experiences from which I will learn to better myself at UGHE.



Eden Gatesi

Why do you want to become a doctor?

My interest in the medical field had started when I was young, as I was inspired by my mom, who is a nurse. She sacrifices herself to save the lives of different people, and this made me realize how vital and helpful I would be if I dedicate my life to the healthcare profession. Furthermore, my eagerness to become a doctor has been made stronger by the death of my friend and Senior 5 classmate, Tabitha. She died of cardiovascular disease, which was not treated nor recognized before due to a lack of specialized doctors who can reach out to vulnerable patients in rural areas.

This showed me that there is a big gap in the medical field of Rwanda and gave me a strong zeal to be a doctor without limitations so that I could be able to save the lives of those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

I am mostly excited for the quality education that I will be gaining, as I will get an opportunity to be facilitated by highly educated and experienced teachers from the most well-known universities in the world. Also, the fact that we will be going out in the community to do research and put into practice what we study as we address the issues that the vulnerable and people from rural areas face, is one of the most exciting parts to me, because I will be directly having a positive impact on the community. I can't wait!

Eden Gatesi attended Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology in the Eastern Province of Rwanda, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. In secondary school, Eden was selected to attend the prestigious Women In Science (WiSci) camp, a women's STEAM camp in Malawi. Upon returning from WiSci, Eden furthered her skills by becoming an advisor for Dear Doctor Rwanda, a student-led organization that aims to improve the health of the most vulnerable. Eden also participated in a laboratory internship at her local health center to prepare herself for medical school.



Jean Bertrand Aime Hakizimana

Jean Bertrand Aime Hakizimana attended École des Sciences Byimana in the Southern Province of Rwanda, where he pursued the Mathematics-Chemistry-Biology (MCB) combination. Bertrand earned a perfect score on his Rwanda National Exam and demonstrated a strong alignment with UGHE's vision and mission.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

At the end of senior three [grade 8], I chose to study the sciences because I wanted to contribute to eradicating diseases like malaria, which almost took the lives of me and my brother when we were young. When we finished senior five [grade 11], I went to a health post to see if I could volunteer there, and I was welcomed by a great number of patients waiting for the nurse, who wasn't even able to treat them; instead, she would transfer them to a different health center, and most of these patients refused. The patients would ask for simpler prescriptions, because their medical

insurance would not cover some of the costs. I wondered if proper health care is only for the rich, and this motivated me to work hard to become a doctor who would make a change in health care delivery in our community, especially in delivering health care services to those vulnerable or those who can't afford them.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

It is amazing to meet people with the same ambition: "health care for all, especially the vulnerable". I am curious about how it will be when we will be helping the community. I hope to gain knowledge and experience, but most of all skills from inspiring health leaders and lecturers. These will act on my passion to make me an inspiring doctor who provides exceptional medical services to patients unable to afford them themselves; therefore, this program will allow me to model the change I want to see in health care services delivery.



Beula Igiraneza

Why do you want to become a doctor?

I still remember the event in 2017 as if it happened yesterday. Helpless, hopeless, and desperate on my sickbed, I forgot the colors that shaded my life. I liked having my family around me in that tough moment, but my doctor was another source of relief back then. My pediatrician cracked millions of jokes each time he entered my room and tried to speak with me in French, which was very enjoyable.

Each time he attended to me, I forgot all about my pain and started wishing that time would fly for him to come again. From then on, I vowed to myself that I would become the same kind of person who helps the sick get some relief. To me, becoming a doctor is less of a career but more of a passion. Saving people's lives, bringing back hope into people's lives, and leaving a mark on someone else's life are things I consider a great pride, reasons to fill my lips with tremendous smiles.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

People say that majoring in medicine is a very difficult task. I have no doubt about that, because medicine is a very important major and thus requires a lot of time and effort for completion. Being a doctor has been my dream, and I believe that coming to UGHE will open a gate of all the skills, knowledge, and capabilities that I need in order to practice medicine. Combing my strength with the passion I have of becoming a doctor, along with the superb skills I will get from UGHE, there is no doubt that I will become an efficient doctor for my country and the whole world.

Beula Igiraneza was born in Kigali, Kicukiro. She attended College Saint André and pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. Beula was the school's head girl and was elected as the Vice President Education in the Toastmasters. She is passionate about helping the needy and served as a leader in her school's group, The Seven United For The Needy, which helps vulnerable people.



Peace Ingabire

Peace Ingabire attended Ecole Notre Dame de la Providence de Karubanda in the Southern Province of Rwanda, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

In Rwanda, attending school is not free. As a result, opportunities for education remain only for wealthy families. I did not have an opportunity to study at an accredited primary school, because my father could not afford the school fees. He could

only find temporary jobs, while he and my mother raised eight children, five of their own and three orphans. For us, life was a daily struggle. Nonetheless, my family valued education, so eventually, my father enrolled me in a humble school where we paid the enormous sum of eight dollars per year. I was always mindful of what my parents did for me, so I studied diligently in order to compete for a place at a stronger school. Their sacrifices paid off. I became one of the top ten students at my school, and I won admittance to one of the best high schools in the country. I want to be a doctor because I'm willing to do whatever I can to save people's lives, to provide society with access to medical services, and to provide medical services to poor people who can't afford it.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

I'm very excited to join the MBBS/MGHD program, because it will help me to reach my dreams easily and without paying tuition fees. I will also contribute to developing my country by providing quality medical services in rural areas. It is my earnest hope and prayer that I will be allowed to complete my dream, to become a graduate of the University of Global Health Equity, and to help in the rebuilding of my country by changing and saving the lives of my people. Thereby, I will be of service to my family, my country, my continent, and my God. I hope I will become a living legacy of the University of Global Health Equity, a Lioness in the heart of Africa.



Generouse Iradukunda

Why do you want to become a doctor?

Since my childhood, I was captivated by medical activities. I would pretend to be sick just so I could meet a doctor. When I was in senior one [grade 6], my grandmother got a wound on her leg, and this gave me a chance to be at the hospital more often. I used to take her to the hospital every day. The wound took a long time to heal, and as the days passed, nurses started skipping my grandmother in line, changing her appointment schedules, and talking to her badly. At my young age, I could not do anything except comfort my grandmother while holding my tears back. The experience with my grandmother made me dream about becoming a doctor. I am willing to acquire medical skills and knowledge so as to bring change and develop the medical sector, and this is how I want to contribute to my country, Rwanda. I believe that in becoming a medical doctor, my voice will serve and speak for those who are abandoned in the health sector.

Generouse Iradukunda Irakoze attended Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology in the Eastern Province of Rwanda, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. Generouse started an anti-AIDS club and helped coordinate AIDS awareness and advocacy events for youth. To prepare herself for medical school, Generouse interned at Busasamana Health Center, where she had the opportunity to learn from experienced medical professionals.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

I believe that joining the MBBS/MGHD program is the best way to get a formal education. I look forward to excellent lectures, community-related activities, practicals, and leadership skills, which will help me achieve my dreams. Moreover, the location of the university gives me great hope that I will be an excellent global health leader, because it is in a rural area in which I will be aware of health problems that I will have to address. I am excited about meeting new people and making new friends who will uplift me to success and brilliance. Shall I be the only one learning from them? No, we will be working together to appropriately take advantage of this impressive opportunity to deliver equity in health care.



Clemence Ishimwe

Ndagije Clemence Ishimwe attended Group Scolaire de Janja Saint Jerome in the Northern Province of Rwanda, where she pursued Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. Clemence is passionate about empowering women and participated in a Girls Mentoring Camp, as well as the Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) camp. She is also interested in nutrition, fitness, and family planning.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

Due to the illness of one of my cousins who dropped out of school as a result of sight problems, I realized that neglected health problems can destroy someone's life. I want to become a doctor in order to give people the chance to have healthy lives, so that they can chase their dreams and live to their full potential. I know that by becoming a doctor I can ensure that all health problems are carefully dealt with in the community.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBSd/MGHD program at UGHE?

I am excited about working in the community and providing healthcare services to underprivileged people. Everyone has the right to quality health care services, but unfortunately a large percentage of the world's population has no access to health services. Therefore, I believe that it is my duty to make the world a better place for everyone. I am sure that the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE will give me the skills to start making changes in the world's health system.



Betty Kabarungi

Why do you want to become a doctor?

I want to become a doctor because I want to give back to the community. I want to make a big impact, especially in the health field. Having lost my sister due to the carelessness of doctors who were responsible for taking care of her, I want to make sure that doctors take good care of their patients. I want to devote myself to helping the vulnerable and those who are not cared for. I believe no one is born to suffer, and that's why I want to commit myself to helping the vulnerable irrespective of their background or financial status.

Betty Kabarungi attended Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology in the Eastern Province of Rwanda, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. While in secondary school, Betty participated in Dear Doctor Rwanda Club and helped coordinate both workshops and opportunities for her and her classmates to visit and intern at nearby hospitals.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

The MBBS/MGHD program is an exciting program as a whole, because I will deeply understand how to take care of people by relating it to their normal lives. Through this program, I will be able to give back to the community, and this is my dream. I will complete the program with skills which will help me to impact the lives of communities and my country as a whole.



Sam Kamali

Sam Kamali attended Riviera High School in Kigali, where he pursued the Mathematics-Chemistry-Biology (MCB) combination. In his spare time during secondary school, he volunteered at a local clinic to learn more about pediatrics, hematology, and working in a laboratory. Sam also loves reading, board games, and playing football when he isn't studying.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

When I was four years old, my dad passed away. I never really grasped the implications of the situation then, but as I grew older, I found out that he had died of brain cancer. I realized that his life could have been prolonged if we had known how to deal with this terrible disease. I thought that there must be some way to fight off this threat, and after learning about science, I realized that there was more than one way. For me, I see becoming a medical doctor as a highly reliable route to prevent cancer and to give people a chance to live.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBSd/MGHD program at UGHE?

I look forward to having my views challenged by other students and my professors, because I am in awe of my peers and the chance to constantly learn from them. I look forward to learning much more about medical ethics, medical anthropology, and understanding the social determinants of health. I look forward to frequent debates and constructive arguments that would broaden my horizons and better prepare me to become a medical doctor.



Materne Nshuti Kayumba

Why do you want to become a doctor?

In 2016, when I was in senior four [grade 10], the biology teacher took us to a laboratory to study fungi anatomy. Everything concerning its anatomy was fully detailed, but the teacher then mentioned that we should not underestimate the negative impact of fungi on humans, without explaining how or why! I asked for examples of these negative impacts, and the teacher responded that I should become a doctor.

Later on, I found out that if I become a doctor, I will be able to investigate things like this and make a positive, effective, and efficient difference on vulnerable populations' lives. I will achieve this through research, as well as the knowledge and skills I acquire from UGHE!

Materne Nshuti Kayumba attended Petit Séminaire Saint Aloys Cyangugu in the Western Province of Rwanda, where he pursued the Mathematics-Chemistry-Biology combination (MCB). Materne earned a perfect score on his Rwanda National Exam and was very involved in extracurricular activities during secondary school. Materne was president of the Jeunesse Étudiante Chrétienne [Young Christian Students], the vice president of the anti-AIDS club, the vice-captain of the basketball team, an assistant librarian, and a chappelle leader.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

Something that excites me about the MBBS/MGHD is how courses are offered through a One Health perspective, which emphasizes the interconnectedness between human, animal, and environmental health. At UGHE I look forward to understanding the interdependence between these three things. This is very important, since health challenges that humans encounter mainly arise from the deteriorating environment. As a solution, a well-maintained environment provides resources to positively overcome or mitigate these health shortcomings. I believe that a proper understanding of this interconnectedness will lead to an appropriate change of mindset and help current and future medical practitioners to achieve health equity.



Liberee Kubwimana

Liberee Kubwimana attended FAWE Girls' School in Kigali Province, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. Liberee earned a perfect score on her Rwanda National Exam. She is passionate about understanding and helping people, especially poor and vulnerable ones. Liberee likes to make other people happy and to give hope to those who have lost it. She dreams of seeing change in the way the health services are offered, and wants to become a doctor to be part of fulfilling this dream.

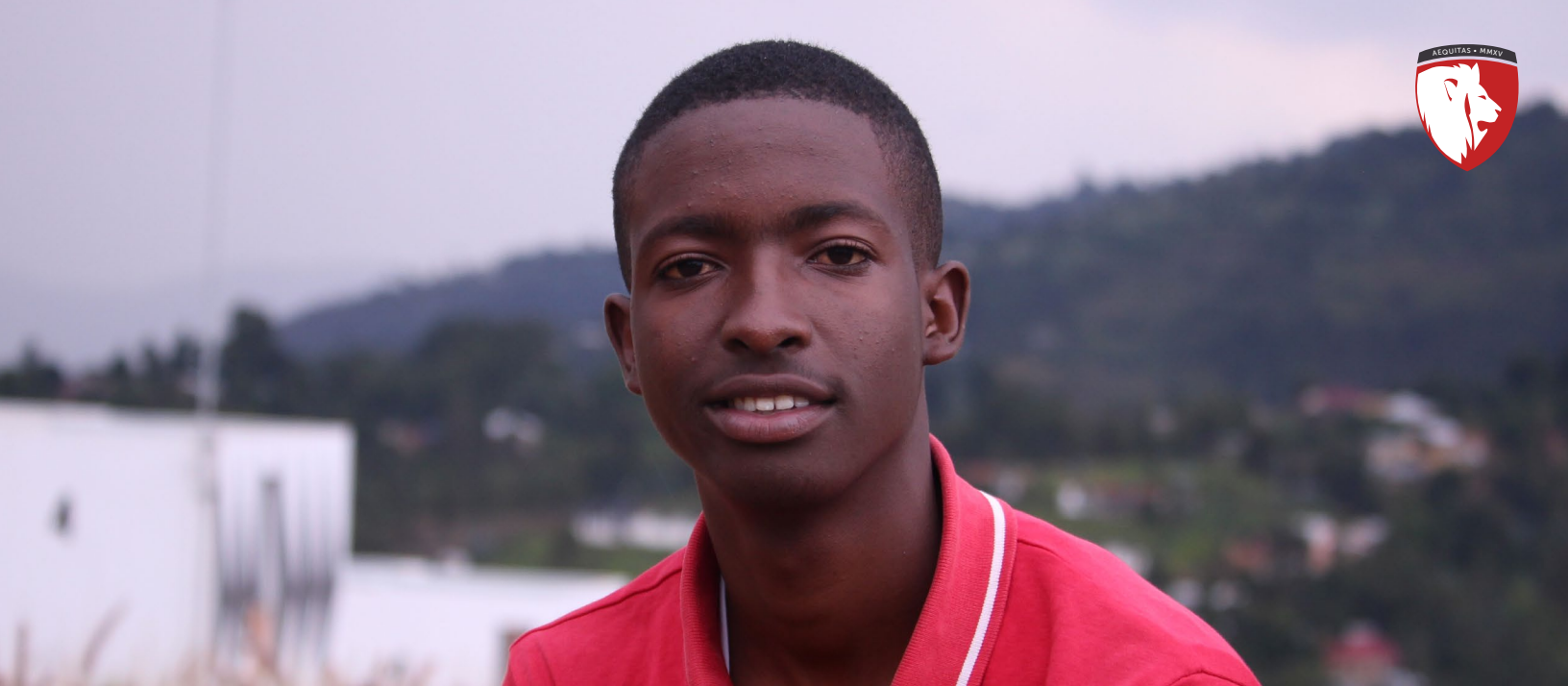
Why do you want to become a doctor?

I was born in a small village, where it took at least four hours to reach the nearest hospital. One day, my neighbor, who was pregnant, went into labor in the middle of the night. They called us to come help, but because of how far it took to reach the hospital without access to an ambulance, adults in our community had to take her to the hospital by foot. When she arrived at the hospital, she died before even delivering the baby. When I asked for the reason, they told me that it was because she delayed to reach the hospital. I was very shocked and asked myself many questions, such as: *Why do I sit and watch while people are dying? What can I*

do to save people's lives? I already dreamed of becoming a doctor, but her story was my motivation to make my dreams come true. I believe that I owe my neighbor and all of society better access to health care, which I can achieve by becoming a doctor.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

The first time I heard about UGHE, I hurried to look at the programs offered there. After reading its vision, I felt that God was making a way for me to achieve my dream of becoming a doctor at UGHE. I want to change the community through the improvement of the way health services are offered. I hope that through the MBBS/MGHD program, I will be able to make these changes and achieve my dreams.



Olivier Mbarushimana

Why do you want to become a doctor?

Becoming a doctor has been my overwhelming dream since my childhood. I am extremely passionate about this profession, and I'm convinced that pursuing this passion is the wisest decision I can make. I want to dedicate my life to the service of people, especially the most vulnerable, and I'm ready to give my all to ensure that people live healthy lives. I like helping people, and I'm conscious that this is not limited to medicine. I'm passionate about science, and I believe that becoming a doctor is the best way to help people through the sciences. Nothing would please me more than seeing a world of happy, smiling, and healthy people: a world without desperately diseased people and unnecessary deaths. Becoming a doctor will be my contribution.

Olivier Mbarushimana attended Petit Séminaire Saint Pie X De Nyundo in the Western Province of Rwanda, where he pursued the Mathematics-Chemistry-Biology (MCB) combination. Olivier earned a perfect score on his Rwanda National Exam, and he comes highly recommended by his former teachers.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

I'm overwhelmed with happiness as I join the MBBS/MGHD program for many reasons. Its curriculum is special and integrative. This will allow me not only to diagnose patients but also to develop and manage efficient healthcare systems. As a student, I have the chance to be trained by great and experienced lecturers from all around the world. In addition, UGHE meets international standards. Thus, all the trainings an excellent doctor ought to receive will be offered at UGHE. I believe that pursuing my studies at the UGHE will be a crucial step to realise my dreams.



Heritier Mfura

Heritier Mfura attended Groupe Scholaire Saint André in Kigali Province, where he pursued the Mathematics-Chemistry-Biology (MCB) combination. Heritier was born in Kigali city, and as he grew up, he became really interested in serving the needy people. In secondary school, he attended different science clubs, and he led and participated in different conversations related to health issues.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

When I was a child, my younger brother got very sick because we were living too far away from the hospital for him to get access to medical services easily. As a result, this led to more complications and a longer time to heal. Through this experience, I was inspired to become a medical doctor so as to contribute to reducing the gap between the number of doctors and the number of patients. I also want to become a medical doctor because I am passionate and feel that it is my responsibility to deliver health services to vulnerable populations who are abandoned.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

It is not fair that some people have access to the best doctors and treatment while others have no medical care. I want to pursue the MBBS/MGHD at the University of Global Health Equity because it will prepare me to address these inequities. The interdisciplinary approach of the program appeals to me greatly, as I believe that interdisciplinary approaches are the most effective way to develop meaningful solutions to complex problems. Many Africans migrate to America, Europe, and Asia searching for health services, but it is time Africans would no longer go abroad to seek health services, but will find them on their own continent.



Delphine Mizero

Why do you want to become a doctor?

The reason why I want to become a doctor is very simple. I don't want to become a doctor because of money. I want to become a doctor because of the incredible work that doctors have done to save my life. I was born with a tumor in my chest that filled with fluid. My mother told me that there was a hot debate about whether to operate on it or to let me, an innocent baby, die because it was too expensive to get treatment. Because we had no insurance then, the operation was very costly, and my mother sold some assets to afford it. My mother told me that she was also extremely afraid of the operation because she had not heard or seen a baby that young having a surgery. It was hard for my mother to decide, but she later accepted the risk and decided on the operation. By the doctor's help and through God's grace, I was alright. I am convinced that my service as a doctor helping those in need and underserved is the biggest contribution I can make to the community, as well as proving my gratefulness to the service and incredible work that people in the medical field are doing. I am highly concerned about the general well-being of the community, especially the least privileged, underserved, and most vulnerable. Thank you again UGHE for being a ladder on which I climb up to achieve my dream.

Delphine Mizero attended Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology in the Eastern Province of Rwanda, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. During secondary school, Delphine was the captain of the football team and interned at a local health clinic to learn more about what it's like to be a doctor.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

As a person who will be working in very close communication with the community, I am looking forward to being involved in a lot of community-based activities. As a doctor, I will be working with others in teams, so I am looking forward to building strong and effective teams and growing my teamwork skills. I also want to develop other important humanitarian values that will help me throughout my entire profession, especially cultural literacy, social justice, and a concern for the community.



Marlene Muhongerwa

Marlene Muhongerwa attended Groupe Scolaire Officiel de Butare in the Southern Province of Rwanda, where she pursued Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. Marlene was a scholar of MasterCard Foundation through FAWE Rwanda. She is passionate about serving her community and demonstrated this by founding a girl movement club called Sisterhood at her school, with the goal of uniting her female peers through common interests and causes.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

I have many reasons for wanting to become a medical doctor, but I can summarise it in four main points. The first is the vision I have for my country, that one day Rwanda will become a center of well-developed medical services so that patients will no longer go outside the country to seek medical assistance. Second, because I've been a victim of a bad health service, I want to become a good medical doctor and work with others to correct different clinical errors. Third, from a young age, I believed that I will become an inspiration and

living proof to my fellow girls and all people that women are able to do and achieve hard things, and I chose to demonstrate this by working hard as a medical doctor. Last but not least, I am deeply interested in volunteering and advocating for people who can't make it themselves, and I wanted to volunteer and serve under-served areas as my way of giving back to my community.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

The title of this integrated program, MBBS/MGHD, is quite exciting! I'm very excited to join a program I've always wished and prayed for! I'm eager to finally know what's beyond the human body and the relationship between humans, animals, and nature that leads to the outbreak of diseases. I'm really curious about how after this program I will be able to help people recover and make them healthy, as well as how I will be able to work with all the great minds together in such a holistic program! I can't wait to see myself doing great things and improving the lives of different people using the knowledge and skills I will get from the program.



Mutesi Mukinisha

Why do you want to become a doctor?

By the time I graduated from high school, I knew I wanted to go to medical school. In post genocide Rwanda, when most of the doctors had been killed, been part of the killing, or fled the country, the healthcare system was in shambles. Years later, the increasingly positive statistics of life expectancy and overall quality of life gave me a sense of hope and the ultimate motivation to be involved in this field. My path to medical school took an unconventional turn when I enrolled at a liberal arts college in Grinnell. During my time there, I engaged in different academic and social discourse that shifted my perspective on how we interact with diseases, illnesses, and the people dealing with them. I also want to be part of a system that dismantles health disparities, some of which are based on people's socioeconomic status. I also want to be involved in creating systems that promote efficiency in the most holistic, inclusive and patient-centered manner.

Mutesi Mukinisha attended Lycée de Kigali, where she pursued the Mathematics-Chemistry-Biology (MCB) combination. Mutesi also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from Grinnell College in Iowa, where she was also a pre-med student. After graduation, Mutesi held multiple roles at the University of Global Health Equity and most recently served as the Executive Education Coordinator.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

This is something that I've wanted to do for a long time, and I'm so glad that I'm going to be on this journey with a small enough cohort of people that I will know for a very long time as classmates and eventually as colleagues in the health field. I'm also excited that we are the first cohort, so we'll be part of new traditions and a lot of "firsts."



Felicite Munezero

Felicite Munezero attended Ecole Notre Dame de la Providence de Karubanda in the Southern Province of Rwanda, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. While in secondary school, she served as president of the Girlscouts Club and used this platform to organize community outreach programs, including the construction of two homes for community members in need and fundraising school fees for disadvantaged students. Felicite was also the secretary of the nonviolence club, where she worked to build positive relationships between her student peers.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

I want to become a cardiologist and eradicate cardiovascular diseases that are wiping away many people's lives around the world. In a country where specialists in heart surgeries are scarce, I want to be the stronghold that the needy can lean on. Cardiovascular diseases are among the top diseases that take people's lives, and many people go abroad to get cured, which is costly. Many cannot afford this cost, and as a result, people lose hope of being cured. In the end, I want to be a cardiologist while at the same time changing policies that obstruct affordable medications. Before everything, we are people, and we are all linked together. My goal is to help directly in the healing journey of patients regardless of their backgrounds.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

I am excited to learn and deliver health care to everyone, especially the needy, and I cannot wait to meet intellectual and well-known professors from around the world. Last but not least, I am excited to explore Butaro and meet the community. I believe that in this community I will understand the most urgent needs in health care. This will help me to implement what I will learn and answer the most challenging problems.



Gislaine Mutatsineza

Why do you want to become a doctor?

I never knew about death until my father's, but learning from death makes me understand how each life, especially a healthy life, matters on this earth. I have recognized that my purpose lies in pursuing health and enabling people to enjoy life to its fullest potential. I want to become a doctor to help people live happy and healthy lives, by saving some from death itself, especially vulnerable people who get worse access to medical care.

Gislaine Mutatsineza attended Stella Matutina Secondary School and Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology, where she pursued the Mathematics-Chemistry-Biology (MCB) combination. In secondary school, she was a member of the Global Give Back Circle - Girls Guiding Government, a leadership program that empowered and trained girls to become future political leaders. Gislaine is passionate about leading her community and nation to greater heights of development in the healthcare system.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

The MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE is really awesome! Getting two degrees at a time is particularly unique. Our knowledge of human health is not enough to save everyone. Joining UGHE will allow me to immerse myself in medical studies as I contribute to the advancement of Rwanda's health care system. I look forward to acquiring new knowledge, ideas, and skills needed to serve my nation, especially on the need for quality healthcare.



Gloria Nishimwe

Gloria Nishimwe attended Lycée de Kigali, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. While in high school, Gloria was the Head Prefect, leading over 1,400 students, where she served as the main liaison between staff and students. Gloria also participated in numerous extracurricular activities, including Peace and Love Proclaimers, Hope for the Needy, Health Club, Debate Club, and Leadership International Club. In her social life, Gloria really likes to interact with people, regardless of who they are.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

I want to be one of the girls who inspires others and saves people's lives by being one of the few female neurosurgeons in Rwanda. A lot of African citizens are dying of chronic diseases and can't contribute to the development of their countries just because they can't afford treatment. Rwanda is one of the countries developing at a high speed, and this development is done by people who use all their effort to contribute to this development. However, this can't happen if people are suffering from diseases or can't access health facilities for treatment. I realised that there is a scarcity of medical doctors and that the poor don't easily get

quality health care, which prevents them from contributing to the development of the country. This is why I want to become a doctor: to satisfy the growing demand of quality healthcare facilities and to help the poor get access to quality health care.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

I am highly excited to be able to interact with diverse people, including my fellow students, lecturers, and the community at large. I am excited to learn about the world's different aspects in health. In addition, I am excited to learn about different and very interesting subjects like gender, justice, and history, and link them to medicine. I believe that these subjects will prepare me to become a very effective global health leader.



Derrick Niyonkuru

Why do you want to become a doctor?

As a child, still wondering about the career I wanted to pursue, I had an experience that left me with a passion of pursuing medicine. When I was 11 years old, my mother contracted a serious disease that started killing her slowly. We took her to the hospital to see a doctor, and they told us that she had a brain tumour that would kill her if left untreated. She was operated on, and thanks to that, she is still alive. After the operation, I talked with one of the doctors and asked him what I could do to save other people's lives like they saved my mom's life. Then, he gave me the simple advice of becoming a doctor.

After that, I decided to pursue medicine as my career. I worked hard in ordinary levels [middle school] so that I could get into a good school for advanced levels [high school]. I succeeded in national examinations, and I moved to Ecole des Sciences Byimana to study Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology (MCB) combination. My discipline and hard work helped me succeed well in class, as well as in national examinations. I worked hard for high grades, which allowed me to join medicine.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

It has always been a passion for me to study medicine. Therefore, joining the MBBS/MGHD program will help me explore my passion deeply. In addition to that, MBBS/MGHD program will provide me with knowledge and different skills that will help me address different problems facing healthcare delivery, especially in rural areas. This is what excites me the most.

Derrick Niyonkuru attended Ecoles des Sciences Byimana in the Southern Province of Rwanda, where he pursued the Mathematics-Chemistry-Biology (MCB) combination. Derrick earned a perfect score on his Rwanda National Exam, and he was very active in extracurricular activities, including the Rwanda Sciences Competition, Science Club, Statistics Club, and Toastmasters Club.



Clovis Gatete Nkeramihigo

Clovis Gatete Nkeramihigo is originally from Huye, in the Southern province of Rwanda. He pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination at Groupe Scolaire Officiel de Butare in Huye, Rwanda. Clovis also earned a perfect score of 73/73 on the Rwanda National Exam and demonstrated a strong passion to become a medical doctor during the admissions process.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

I have always wanted to become a doctor for as long as I can remember. Since I was a kid, I have always loved science and was most captivated by the human body, so I always found myself drawn to medicine. As I grew up, I also got to see that with medicine I can get the opportunity to help change people's lives and impact the well-being of the community around me. Therefore, being a doctor will allow me to pursue and use my passion for science to serve my community.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

One of the things that excites me the most about starting the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE is the opportunity to learn from some of the best minds in the field of health. I look forward to working with such accomplished and experienced leaders in health. Another thing that excites me is the way this program is that it is integrated with an MGHD, which will not only equip me with the clinical skills a doctor needs, but also the leadership and knowledge to help improve the health system of my country.



Fred Nkurunziza

Why do you want to become a doctor?

My life experiences have shaped my passion of being a doctor. In 2012, my father became a diabetes victim. It was hard for me to see him spend most of his days in the hospital and unable to go to work, despite our life struggles at home and the high hospital expenses that we couldn't afford. When my mother got stomach complications one year after my father's sickness, it was one of my hardest life experiences, and I spent many sleepless nights wondering where we could get her medicine when we couldn't afford it. This experience made me promise my parents that one day I will make their lives better.

I want to become a doctor so that I can help others in a significant way. Most people value their health above everything in their lives, whether they realize it or not. When someone is sick or injured, his or her normal way of life is disrupted, and doctors have the incredible opportunity to restore these people's lives to normalcy and even save some from death itself.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

I am excited to receive a first-class education in the MBBS/MGHD program. At the end of the program, I have no doubt about being one of the doctors who will make a huge positive impact on the world's health sector. I also look forward to meeting a diverse community during the program, where I will be able to learn more about other people's lifestyles, so as to gain the skills needed to help me in my future career.

Fred Nkurunziza attended College Saint Andre, where he pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. Fred has strong debate skills, and in secondary school he participated in national and East African debate competitions.



Pascaline Nsanzurwanda Uwase

Pascaline Nsanzurwanda Uwase attended Lycée de Kigali, where she pursued Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. She also attended Ecole Secondaire Stella Matutina for O-level. Pascaline participated in Red Cross Club, Science and Technology Club, Health Club. She likes listening to people, reading books, classical music, and singing.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

When I turned 10, my nephew had a terrible eye disease and had to undergo surgery at a young age. My father also said that his aunt went blind because she couldn't get treatment for her disease. Given these experiences, I really want to help people by solving their health issues, most especially those with eyesight difficulties as an ophthalmologist. I always tell myself that life is a miracle, and maintaining that miracle is my principal concern. I know that it's up to

me to make sure that I work hard so that my dreams become a reality. We all know that words are proven by actions, and that is how you live a life with impact on society.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

Being part of the MBBS/MGHD program is very exciting, but what I'm most excited about is my experience in simulation class during the program. Secondly, I am excited about how things will turn out to be after six and a half years of preparation. The fact that my colleagues and I will finally be given the opportunity to serve the world to deliver health care to the needy ones within our country is exciting!



Joselyne Nzisabira

Why do you want to become a doctor?

Having had experienced a long period in a hospital as a patient (five years) gave me the real view of what happens there. I saw a big gap and lack of equity in provision of services. I remember being ignored almost six times at the hospital while I watched rich people being offered services. The first thing I thought was, "how can I tackle this?" I was young and incapable of making a change at that time, but making a change became my future goal. I decided to become a doctor so that I can fill the gaps I have experienced in the medical field in the country. However, it is not only about my country; I view this as a global issue, mainly for the most vulnerable.

Joselyne Nzisabira attended Groupe Scolaire Officiel de Butare in the Southern Province of Rwanda, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. At school she was part of the Charity Club, which was in charge of taking care of sick students. Additionally, Joselyne was involved in public speaking and debate clubs. She is passionate about becoming a good leader, and in her free time, she enjoys dancing.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

There are plenty of things I am much excited about within the MBBS/MGHD program. Firstly, I am excited about my class and moments with great, incredible professors. Additionally, I am also excited about working in the nearby community. Lastly, apart from the fact that we will get two degrees from the program, I highly appreciate the University environment and the way of living, which are comfortable and supportive for a future doctor. I can't wait to join the MBBS/MGHD program.



Axel Shimwa

Axel Shimwa attended Petit Seminaire Saint Jean Nkumba, which is located in Burera District. He pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. Axel participated in school activities by helping students as headboy and playing for the school basketball team.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

I started thinking about being a doctor in 2016 when I was in charge of the sickroom at my high school located in Burera District, where I realized that high quality health care services were not delivered to people living in rural areas, as there were no specialized doctors working in the countryside. Moreover, I observed the living conditions of people who are in rural areas, and I have found them more difficult compared to those of people

living in towns. This could be one of the reasons that they should get high quality health care services, but it is not the case. Therefore, I want to be a doctor so that I can address this serious problem, because all people deserve good health care services, regardless of any factor or criteria.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

Joining the MBBS/MGHD program makes me think about the future of healthcare services in Rwanda, especially in rural areas, where I see clear positive changes happening. According to the information I have about the high quality of skills, knowledge, and capacity that MBBS/MGHD graduates are supposed to have, this shows a great potential of future doctors who are really able to deal with health-related issues in Rwanda, which is the environment they will be working in. As UGHE continues to provide support to young, bright future doctors, the good healthy life of citizens in every corner of the country is approaching.



Evergiste Singizwa

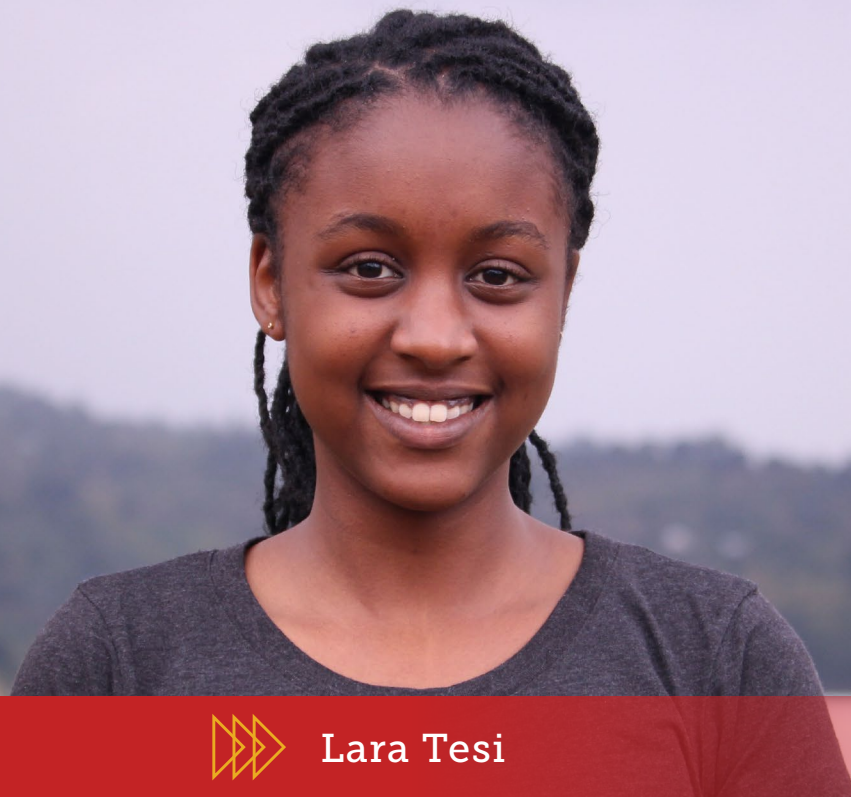
Why do you want to become a doctor?

As someone who was raised in a rural community, I have seen a lot that has greatly influenced and strengthened my ambition to become a doctor. In most rural communities, taking a journey of two hours to the nearby hospital is common. However, the extreme shortage of health professionals, which exists in many countries around the world and primarily in Africa, is a major threat to our health. I hope that spending my life treating and correctly diagnosing people, especially from rural areas, will be my considerable contribution to address this challenge.

Evergiste Singizwa attended Ecoles des Sciences Byimana in the Southern Province of Rwanda, where he pursued the Mathematics-Chemistry-Biology (MCB) combination. Evergiste earned a perfect score on his Rwanda National Exam, and as someone who grew up in a rural community where he had to walk two hours to get to a hospital, demonstrated a strong passion and desire to impact rural communities by making health care more accessible to all.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

It's a great achievement to get an opportunity to attend a competent medical school like the University of Global Health Equity. With the technology at UGHE, I will get more training to link scientific knowledge with clinical practice through today's growing medical technology. I believe that with the MBBS/MGHD curriculum, which integrates both social and clinical skills, I will be a good doctor who can address any health challenge.



Lara Tesi

Lara Tesi was born in Kigali. She attended Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. Lara enjoys reading and jogging in her free time. In secondary school, Lara participated in Tutoring and Mentoring Club, as well as Community Services Club.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

I want to become a doctor so that I can contribute to the wellbeing of my community, and my calling, I believe, is to do this through medicine. In 2016, I had an internship at the Rwanda Military Hospital for a month. I was not experienced and was mostly observing what was going on around me. I remember wearing a lab coat, and desperate people would call to me expecting some kind of help. I felt helpless, as neither my presence nor my will to help would

appease those people's suffering. I then decided that I needed to study medicine in order to equip me with the knowledge and skills that would turn me into a skilled medical practitioner, able to relieve pain, and able to answer these distress calls helpfully.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

The first thing that I thought about with excitement when I learned I was admitted was the enjoyment that I would experience throughout the next 6.5 years. The joy to be surrounded by people with the same objectives, the joy of having a peaceful environment, but most importantly the joy of being able to achieve my life-long dream career by the year 2025. Of course, the mere idea of learning not only the basics of sciences but also advanced studies in anatomy and physiology of the human body was an encouragement in this journey. I will forever be grateful to have crossed paths with UGHE. It is the missing piece of the puzzle in my life. The puzzle does not end here, but being here is a milestone in my story.



Joyeuse Urujeni

Why do you want to become a doctor?

It has always been my dream to become a doctor. I want to be a doctor to change the world into a better place. I want to see no more suffering or people who die from undiscovered diseases. I want to help bring hope to patients by diagnosing and treating them, so they can walk out of the hospital with a smile instead of pain and contemplations on when they are going to die. Furthermore, I want to be a doctor in order to help Rwanda reduce importing specialized doctors, since I will be among the specialized ones in my motherland, hence reducing the expenses and increasing the income of my country. Lastly, the education system in Rwanda has done a lot to support girls' education, which was at a low rate before. Therefore, since I was among the girls who were supported, I want to give back to my community through being a doctor and designing a better world, one of hope and healing.

Joyeuse Urujeni attended Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB combination). She is idealistic and imaginative, and is very motivated to give back to her community through applying what she has learned.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

What I'm most excited about in the MBBS/MGHD program is that it'll mold me into the best doctor that I have dreamed of becoming. Also, I'm very excited that I'll be reaching out to the community, working with them, knowing their health issues, and finding relevant solutions to their problems, thereby developing health services locally and globally.



Benitha Uwera

Bernadette Benitha Uwera studied Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination and earned a perfect score on the Rwanda National Exam. Benitha is really passionate about helping people morally, spiritually, and physically, because it matters to her that around her is safe and happy. In high school, she was a Catholic church coordinator and was very involved in musical activities, including the choir.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

Both of my parents live with serious health issues up until now; my mother has lung issues, and my father has spine issues. My parents both went all the way to India to get cured, but nothing has really improved their health condition. I saw my parents in so much agony and pain, and I had a desire since my childhood to grow up and become a useful doctor who will help sick and suffering people. Also, many people are still unnecessarily dying in rural areas, because

the hospitals are too far away, and for others, they are economically disadvantaged. I feel like I have to do something to change that as well. We only die once and get no chance to relive, and this is why I take death seriously and have the urge to do everything possible to save someone's life.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

You [UGHE] and I share the same vision, which is to help people who have been left out of society because they are poor. This makes me most excited to join hands with you to go all the way sowing a spirit of equity in this world, especially in Rwanda. Also, I am very excited because I will be meeting professors from all around the world. It's such a privilege that we are going to get the high-quality education needed to save as many lives as possible.



Alima Uwimana

Why do you want to become a doctor?

My personal experiences and educational background planted the seed of medicine within me. One of the experiences I had was when my brother became deaf due to the lack of medical specialists in our village, and our family was not able to afford his quality treatment. Therefore, I want to become a doctor so that I can make a difference in my country, especially by serving people in rural areas, as well as poor communities who hardly get access to quality health care. Since my early schooling, I liked science and mathematics, and I was always curious about how drugs work in the body effectively. This shaped my interest in the medical field and developed in me a strong desire of knowing the significance of science in improving the lives of people in the community.

Alima Uwimana attended Ecole Notre Dame de la Providence de Karubanda, where she pursued the Physics-Chemistry-Biology (PCB) combination. Alima earned a perfect score on her Rwanda National Exam, and while in secondary school, she participated in the Mental Health Club. Alima was also a member of the Red Cross club and played for her school's volleyball team.

What do you look forward to the most as you begin the MBBS/MGHD program at UGHE?

Whenever I dreamed of being a doctor, my first thought was not on the riches that I will get but on the wellness of people whom I will be serving, especially the vulnerable and the poor. I am so excited to join this program since my ambitions align with the vision of UGHE. I am also excited to join the program due to its uniqueness, which unlike other programs at other universities, will be preparing doctors who will target vulnerable populations and deliver health care services equitably, irrespective of the financial capacity of people, their backgrounds, or any other factors that make people unequal.

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RWANDA

Kigali Heights Plot 772 | KG 7 Ave., 5th Floor
PO Box 6955 | Kigali

UNITED STATES

800 Boylston Street, Suite 300
Boston, Ma 02199