

Client is currently attending Wharton Lauder and received a \$20,000 scholarship.

What do you hope to gain professionally from the Wharton MBA?

Given my interest in innovation and all things international, I succeeded to study and work abroad in one of the most technologically advanced industry: the aviation industry. The future of the industry is drone development and because of this, I intended to co-found a drone startup with one of my Embry-Riddle colleagues, however, neither of us had a well-rounded business background at the time. Now that I have some aviation industry experience, I want to obtain an MBA from Wharton and gain startup experience.

All of this would prepare me for my long-term goal: to develop the first for-profit social enterprise in Africa using drone technology to provide agricultural irrigation recommendations to African farmers. Using drones, I would take pictures of the crops to create a 3D map. After analyzing the map for things such as elevation and slope, I would develop recommendations about the most efficient ways to irrigate. Irrigating crops in a more targeted way, through microsprinklers, we can reduce the water needed by 40%. This would significantly increase the percentage of arable land. My intention is to approach impact investors such as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

I have been laying the groundwork for this concept for the past 3 years. At [REDACTED], I collaborate with international teams across multiple functions, negotiate with aviation regulatory bodies, develop and lead multi-million dollar programs, and present them to customers at seminars, internationally. I now have a broad understanding of the enterprise, working in collaboration with stakeholders at all levels of the organization.

Post-MBA, I aim to secure a Business Development position at a drone startup such as [REDACTED], a drone technology startup that transports food and drug supplies to remote parts of Africa. As an engineer, I know the capability of the technology involved and could participate in developing new products. I would also leverage my talents in public speaking and developing successful new partnerships. I also intend to create strategic partnerships in Africa that deepen our ties within the community with organizations such as PSI.

While my engineering background is indispensable, I now need to obtain a well-rounded business education, the principles of entrepreneurship, and how to raise impact investments. According to [REDACTED], CEO of [REDACTED], the drone industry would be booming if it weren't for a lack of business skills.

At Wharton, I intend to join the Venture Initiation Program, Technology Entrepreneurship Club and Weiss Tech House to shape my business idea by masterminding and brainstorming with my fellow members. Participating in the MBA Impact Investing Network will also help me learn about early-stage impact investing strategies.

When spending a semester at Wharton San Francisco, I would meet experienced startup leaders through the Wharton Entrepreneur workshops and have better insight into the challenges I would face as a social entrepreneur. When visiting Lauder, I was excited to learn from [REDACTED] that I could also do an internship while in San Francisco. This experience will give me the opportunity to work on the future deployment of a product.

Teamwork is at the core of the Wharton MBA experience with each student contributing unique elements to our collaborative culture. How will you contribute to the Wharton community?

To develop my startup, applying drone technology to improve irrigation on African farms, I would need to get impact investing experience, particularly in the food and nutrition impact sector. Joining the Wharton Social Venture Fellows as an Impact Investing Partner will help me to understand what investors seek in terms of profitability and social impact. In particular, working in the production sub-sector, as it specifically focuses on agricultural yield, would provide me with a tremendous advantage in developing my drone startup.

Having led international teams across multiple functions, at Wharton, I would be able to help my peers navigate challenges that can occur when implementing a global program, and advise them on alternative approaches. I would also be able to leverage my experience from the non-profit organization [REDACTED], where I lead a business strategy project, to evaluate risks that specifically pertain to the social sector.

To get a better insight of the challenges and opportunities in Africa, I would like to join the Wharton African Student Association. This would allow me to meet future African leaders

who could help create awareness about my agricultural consultancy. I also plan to attend the African Business Forum where I could absorb knowledge that will help me evaluate risks and raise venture capital for my social enterprise in Africa. When collaborating with the study abroad office of Embry-Riddle in Florida, while studying abroad, I organized international events and served as a buddy to several incoming students. Given this experience, I would help francophone Africans assimilate to Philadelphia and to improve their integration to the Wharton community, by accompanying them to on-campus events.

I would like to secure a “Plan B” Europe-based post-MBA career option, should I be unable to obtain a U.S work visa. To this end, I would like to join the Wharton European Student Association to connect with European employers and Wharton students. At [REDACTED], the first European association for aerospace students, I collaborated with students from 19 different countries to create 32 career opportunities in European companies. From this experience, I’ve learned a great deal about how to develop partnerships with European employers and create new job opportunities, including summer internships and post MBA full-time jobs.

Finally, I would be able to share French culinary culture with the Wharton Food Club making crepes. While I was studying abroad at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, I won the title of “Crepe Chef Master” at an international event. I think this would be a great opportunity to share my skills (but not the recipe) with other students.