

Scholar Story

Joy Chepkorir

Joy Chepkorir is in her final year of her online MSc in Global Health Policy at the University of Edinburgh.

This course complements her research interests of nursing, researching breast and cervical cancer. She has been committed to promoting cancer prevention through community-based education and cancer screening Kenyan and American women since her undergraduate days.



After her undergraduate internship in Kenya, Joy undertook a volunteer project which focused on breast and cervical cancer education and awareness, in local communities near her home in rural Kenya. This led her to found the Mwongozo Cancer Initiative, a non-profit based in Kenya.

"Through my course at the University of Edinburgh, I have found that there are so many factors that are integrated in cancer prevention. It has enabled me to see why cancer prevention is such a complex issue, not just determined by local policies but influenced by global organisations."

Ultimately, Joy's ambition is to transition into global health policy. "The online MSc aligned to my future career goals in health policy. Eventually I want to work for the World Health Organisation as a consultant and the course provides a bridge to understanding factors related to policy formulation and implementation. I am considering how changes in global health policy can support low-income uninsured communities with limited access to healthcare services. Through the course, I will gain more credibility in the global health policy space."

Joy has benefited from the support of her peers studying online at the University of Edinburgh. "The MCF team did well connecting the scholars, and I learnt a lot from my colleagues." Having not studied in the UK before, Joy initially needed some support on how to navigate the British

system and final assessment processes. Through the university's mentorship programme for MCF scholars, she was matched with a mentor who worked at an international organisation in Kenya. Through them, Joy has been able to connect to people working at the WHO.

Joy acknowledged the challenges of studying online, across different time zones. "We couldn't have a common meeting where we could all be present to discuss our inputs and ideas." However, she has identified another online scholar working in the US, who is also interested in cancer prevention policies and they are planning on meeting in person. "There are other scholars on the program that I have connected with, with the same interests. I feel part a community of scholars who have a strong desire to change different aspects of society."



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