

## DESMOND BANTEE



My name is Desmond Bantee and I pursued BSc. Land Economy at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi – Ghana. I graduated with first-class honors and emerged as the 2023 Valedictorian of the College of Art and Built Environment at the KNUST.

Born into a family of great financial need in the northern part of Ghana, I could only dream of obtaining a minimum education, the prospect of higher education seemed like an elusive dream. However, the Educational Pathways International (EPI) scholarship was a timely resource that paved the way for me to pursue my undergraduate education. I got enrolled on the scholarship during my first year at school and joined the vibrant community of intellectuals and leaders.

Not only was EPI my financial lifeline, but it also provided opportunities for my personal growth and holistic development. The monthly training and lively meeting sessions played a pivotal role in honing my public speaking skills, leadership capabilities, and ability to work cooperatively within diverse teams among others. These skills enabled me to pursue academic excellence and take up leadership positions such as the President of Ghana Sustainability Leadership Academy and the Vice President of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors Students' Society.

My decision to study Land Economy was influenced by my desire to become a Professor in real estate, land management, and sustainable rural and urban development. My goal is to contribute to knowledge through research, educate intuitively through teaching, and impact society through practical recommendations. I aim to devise innovative ways of creating space for people to thrive and contribute meaningfully to society, and address tenure insecurity prevalent in developing countries, especially Ghana.

Witnessing my progress this far reassures me that I am on the path to achieving my dreams and making a meaningful impact on society. I am eternally grateful to EPI for the financial support and the enriching experience.

Long live Educational Pathways International and heartfelt appreciation to all the donors and sponsors whose generosity lights the way for aspiring scholars like myself.