

## DR. SEKINATU A. KARIM



Karim Adonpoka Sekinatu is my name, an alumnus of the University for Development Studies (UDS) in the Northern part of Ghana, West Africa.

I am currently undertaking my national service as the mandatory community service of the National Service Scheme (NSS) in Ghana after studying a 6year Doctor of Medical Laboratory Science (MLS.D) programme.

The University for Development Studies offers not only knowledge in academia but practical skills for the development of the nation Ghana and the world at large. These development skills are stemmed from the Third Trimester Field Practical Programme (TTFPP) that the university offers.

Coupling my skills as a ‘developer’ and my professional knowledge as a biomedical laboratory scientist has enhanced my service to humanity at the Upper East Regional hospital where I am undertaking my national service. The Biomedical Laboratory Science profession is one that has been overlooked for decades. It sees beyond a patient’s clinical history and looks deep to the underlying cause of a disease. Being a biomedical laboratory scientist, I ensure that a patient being represented in the laboratory is attended to systemically and the right diagnoses is given for prompt treatment.

Serving humanity to the maximum and doing something that has ethical standards and helps the lives of many is the reason for my choice of profession.

In the year 2019, I was privileged to be enlisted among Educational Pathways International (EPI) beneficiaries. This came after financial struggles I encountered in my first year. I am one of the two children from a polygamous family. With the large family size, needs of my siblings and I were catered for based on gender and priority. Being a female, it didn’t favor me since priority is given to male gender in the Northern part of the country where I am from. My mother happens to be the sole breadwinner of the family which was always challenging for her as a petty trader. My finance was a setback in my academic excellence and achieving my goals. It was always a struggle to think of the next meal, expenses, study materials, and the next academic year with its academic user fee.

EPI gave me a sound mental health to focus on my academics and this is so evident in my grades and GPA.

EPI catered for my academic user fees, accommodation, study materials and stipend. It changed the narrative from thinking of the next meal, expenses, study materials and academic user fees. EPI has been the family with the warmest embrace ever which does not

only see to our financial needs but organizes sessions for our personal and professional growth. The EPI family at UDS had sessions like curriculum vitae writing, entrepreneurship, public speaking (theoretical and practical), soft skills employers require, equipping us for the job market.

Having completed my first degree and looking back at the journey, there is not much to say but thank you to Educational Pathways International. My academic journey has been smoothing all because of your generosity.