

## JESSICA ACQUAYE



My name is Jessica Acquaye. I grew up in a modest fishing community in Accra. My future once seemed as murky as the waters that shaped my surroundings. Opportunities were scarce, and the hope of furthering my education beyond high school felt like a far-off dream. Yet, despite overwhelming odds, there was a spark within me—a belief that I could rise above my circumstances. That spark became a flame when I was awarded the Educational Pathways International (EPI) scholarship, a moment that redefined my life and reignited my hopes for a brighter future.

Thanks to the EPI scholarship, what once seemed impossible became my reality. Their unwavering support empowered me to pursue my education at

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), where I graduated with first-class honors in Biochemistry. This journey wasn't just about academic success; it was about overcoming the limitations of my background and proving to myself that with determination and the right support, any dream is achievable.

Initially, my heart was set on studying Human Biology with the goal of becoming a medical doctor. However, life had other plans, and I was offered Biochemistry instead. At first, this felt like a setback—a detour from my dream. But through the guidance of mentors and my own introspection, I realized that Biochemistry could still be a pathway to medical school. What seemed like a shattered dream became a dream delayed, not denied. I poured myself into my studies, determined to excel and prove that I could still achieve my ultimate goal.

Currently, I am completing my one-year mandatory national service at the Centre of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), where I aim to gain valuable experience in research and scientific inquiry. My next step is to attend postgraduate medical school, where I will continue my journey toward becoming a medical doctor. I am committed to using my medical knowledge to serve the underserved communities, particularly in rural areas where access to healthcare is limited.

Beyond my personal aspirations, I want to inspire young girls in my community. Coming from a place where many dreams are left unrealized due to financial constraints, I hope my story serves as a beacon of hope. I want to show them that no matter where you start, with determination and support, anything is possible. My goal is to give back to Ghana by contributing to the healthcare system and mentoring young women, helping them to believe in their own potential.

None of this would have been possible without the life-changing support of Educational Pathways International scholarship. Their belief in my abilities, even when I doubted myself, has been the driving force behind my achievements. I am eternally grateful for the opportunities they have provided me, and I carry with me a deep sense of responsibility to pay it forward.

As the famous American author Zig Ziglar once said, “You don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.” EPI gave me the start I needed, and I am now on my path to greatness, ready to make a difference in my community and beyond.