

Hakim Ibrahim

2016 Gary Mason Achievement Award Winner

Hello, ladies and gentlemen; my name is Hakim Ibrahim. I am 22 years old and I am from Sudan. I left my family in 2010 due to war in my country. As a child, I went through many countries in Africa seeking peace and stability. Eventually I arrived in Ghana in 2011 where I spent almost four years in a refugee camp. Unfortunately organizations and refugee agencies in the camp did not provide food and school equipment for children like me who dropped out of school. I went to a government school for help, but unfortunately, I was not accepted in primary school because of my age and where I came from. As much as I wanted to good education, I could not afford to pay for private school.



Being a refugee without a family was not easy for me. I had to cope with difficult situations but I never gave up because the only thing I could change in my life was my education! This was my main goal. I wrote a letter to the Canadian embassy and the helped me to get into school and provided me with some materials. I met a lot of people along with my educational journey from various humanitarian organizations, as well as people from Canadian immigration services who inspired me to apply for Canadian immigration. This was a long process. After seven interviews I was finally able to move to Canada on April 8, 2015. I got a job two months later. In my earlier months, I was so excited to work but I faced so many difficulties communicating with people in my workplace. Therefore, I asked my caseworker about how to enrol in a school here, and she advised me to go to the Bedford School.

I attended the Bedford School for six weeks. During my days in this school I always had conversations with my teacher and she encouraged me to come to the Cunard Learning Centre. I came to Cunard last September and I was placed in Level II. I am in Level III now and I see many changes in me from when I began! I am able to understand what people say and respond to them confidently. I believe if we are all educated, the world will be a better place to live! This is why I want to share my story.

My goal is to become a psychologist. My greatest reason for choosing to become a psychologist is to help people with their problems, especially those with mental illness. As a child, I was very traumatized not knowing where my parents were and I remember how people were kind to me and helped me with my problems. This is what motivates me to continue working hard towards my goals.

I am very proud of everyone who encouraged me, and I am especially thankful to all my teachers and the Cunard Learning Centre. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to express myself. God Bless, and God Bless Canada!

