

CASE STUDY

FARAI MWAMUKA

Farai was born to get an MBA; at least it was the plan for as long as he can remember. He just needed to find the right time and university to make it happen. Though he grew up and completed his high school education in Zimbabwe, he studied his undergraduate degree in the United States. From there, he went to work in South Africa for five years before completing his MBA at London Business School.

WHY MBA? WHY LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL? WHY PRODIGY FINANCE?

Deciding that an MBA was for him was the easy part for Farai. And, he found that making the switch to investment banking and finance provided the perfect opportunity to begin his applications.

London Business School's impressive finance education and, of course, its location within the finance capital of the world influenced Farai's final decision to apply. But, if it hadn't been LBS, it would have been another European business school; Farai wanted to "get that different experience, and get that exposure."

Interestingly, there was another factor in his short list. Knowing that financing would be a challenge for an international student, he applied only to schools accepting Prodigy Finance loans after learning about the company through the grapevine.

He cites the exchange rate as one issue affecting his budget. Another is the banking system in

South Africa. "It's tough to get financing for study, for MBA studies in general, and especially for a course of this magnitude, as far as the expense."

Farai isn't sure what he would have done without a loan from Prodigy Finance. Though he would have reached out to every person he knows, he believes it would nearly impossible. "I don't think I'd have been here without Prodigy Finance. I mean I may have been here, but it would have been extremely tough."

PRODIGY FINANCE APPLICATION PROCESS

"I think the process of getting funding through Prodigy Finance is extremely simple and intuitive. If you go to the website, it's very clear what you have to do. Once you actually get into the process of applying for the loan, I found it like extremely simple. I didn't need to call up anyone and ask hey, how do I fill this out? So, for me, it was a very simple process." He was impressed enough that Farai regularly suggests international graduate students take a look Prodigy Finance's products. The FAQs covered



nearly every question he had, so he almost never had to reach out to the team. But, he certainly found them to be helpful when he did.

When he was uncertain whether his documents would comply, he always found a fast response. All he had to do was let them know, and the Prodigy Finance Operations team assisted with the deadlines and compliance. "I think it's a very understanding team, and extremely helpful."

His loan approval was the highlight of Farai's year, he claims. The stress of finances was getting to him, and he had become nervous that he wouldn't make it to campus. He celebrated immediately, citing the moment as transformational. "Just knowing this was going to enable me to achieve my dreams, it was great."

PRODIGY FINANCE BUSINESS MODEL AND COMMUNITY

"I think it's great that Prodigy Finance gets the alumni of the school to invest." He knows the initiative is filling a gap that aspiring students from developing countries needed.

For Farai, it's about the connection made. "It makes me feel good that the reason I'm here is actually because of LBS alum. It's got that personal connection to it, and I think that's great. I think also it encourages me to want to give back in the same way." It's the personal touch that drives him to succeed so he will be in a position to assist future MBA students at LBS.

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COMMUNITY/POST GRAD ASPIRATIONS

The future is wide open for Farai. He loves London and appreciates all the work he can achieve in the city. But he may need to reevaluate in the future; his heart may always be in somewhere else. It's obvious when he considering the possibility of returning to the continent where he was born. "I think there's a lot to be done in Africa, which I'm really passionate about, and I can play a big role over there."