Choosing further study
Etifa finished a BSc in Biochemistry and decided to specialise further with an MSc Biotechnology from the University of Hertfordshire. He picked the course because of access to learning facilities, such as the dedicated hours for research within the laboratories combined with 24 hour access to the learning resources centres. The University’s close proximity to London was also a factor as well as learning alongside a vibrant international community.

The course structure allowed Etifa practical sessions at least once every week as well as regular access to academic tutors for support. ‘The friendly disposition of tutors and other staff is impeccable. They are always willing to help. The mentoring sessions will be hard to forget.’

No limitations
The course has also allowed Etifa the chance to develop practical skills, so that he faces the jobs market with absolute confidence in his abilities and how he can make a difference in the world of science.

‘The problem-based learning (PBL) approach undoubtedly prepares students to face and solve real-life scientific problems. With an MSc in Biotechnology from the University of Hertfordshire, there are absolutely no limitations on the depth of research one can undertake in finding scientific solutions to the myriad problems facing humanity, thereby enhancing career objectives and making financial gains from such an outcome.’

Advice for future students
Before undertaking further study, Etifa highlights the work involved. ‘Enthusiasm and proper planning are key to success in any endeavor, and getting a Master’s degree in Biotechnology is no exception. Students must embrace the ethos of hard work and diligence.’

The MSc Biotechnology has built on Etifa’s previous work experience with government policy proposals. He feels the presentation skills have helped his confidence and public speaking, both skills which he hopes to use in his future career plans either in academia or undertaking research for government agencies.

‘The programme at the University of Hertfordshire makes you well rounded. The problem-solving skills and group-work ethics acquired from the PBL approach cannot be overemphasized. Students must be prepared to think things through and develop a mind of their own.’