

Rhagete Pryce

Letter Seeking Assistance



It is often said that a dream does not become a reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work. My name is Rhagete Pryce, a 4th-year medical student studying at the University of the West Indies but at a closer look, I am more than just a medical student. I am someone who perseveres through tough times, a person with vision who refuses to give up. My journey of success started at St. George's College where I cultivated a culture of hard work and determination. Constantly trying to dream big and setting my sights high.

While in high school, I was always an honor roll student who aimed to be in the top 3 position of my class each year. As a result of constantly working hard at St. George's College, I was able to ease the burden of paying tuition each year through sponsorships that allowed me the opportunity to progress. I saw education as the key to elevating myself and I was further motivated by seeing my hard work pay off each year.

Upon entering the sixth form program I continued to strive for excellence not only academically but by serving my school as the Deputy Head Boy for the 2017/2018 academic year. I was able to balance my academic pursuits, by securing the top place in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. As a result of working hard, I experienced one of my proudest moments by receiving the *Knights Award* for Excellence. Despite being from a poor financial background, I have always felt like I could do anything I put my mind to and I never thought of the limitations. At the same time, I worked tirelessly to achieve my dream of becoming a medical doctor.

Consequently, I was accepted into UWI Mona Medical School in 2019 as I was offered 1 of 50 subsidized spaces provided by the government due to my grades. At this moment although I am a sponsored student, I have found it very difficult to cover the \$715,146.00 that I am required to pay and it is the current hurdle that I face while trying to concentrate on my studies. For my first 3 years of medical school, I have managed to reach this far in my journey with the aid of the Rodwell Lake scholarship gifted by Burger King at the end of St. George's College along with the sacrifices made by my parents. After exhausting the assistance offered by Burger King, I was blessed to receive assistance from the Grace Kennedy Foundation which was generous in offering \$260,000 annually to cover a part of my fees. I currently owe \$346,834.52 for my tuition and basically struggle to find money for transportation and food. I don't eat much most days and as a result I have developed an ulcer.

But despite the assistance, I still face challenges in completing my journey. My father, who is 75 years old, is the sole provider for my household and he is no longer able to work consistently due to ill health pertaining to his eyes. Therefore, he is no longer able to provide both tuition and lunch money each week yet he still tries the best he can. The intensity of my studies has also increased causing me to leave the hospital at night, therefore,

making the need to reside on campus a dire one. It would provide safety and peace of mind due to the violent nature of my community in the Waltham Park area as I remove my medical science pin on my way home daily as a precaution. The GraceKennedy Foundation has kindly agreed to cover the cost of my boarding and I hope to move on hall in about a week's time.

Reaching the end of my journey I am kindly seeking your assistance in whatever way possible to stay afloat and to achieve my full protentional to become someone who can positively impact the people around me and by extension the wider society. I am in my last two years of medical school so if the burden of finding my tuition was lifted I know I could perform at an even higher level. I want to prove that it is possible to obtain your dream by working hard and never giving up. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated and can be sent to the Grace Kennedy foundation or directly to UWI using my ID number (620117631). Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your kind assistance.

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