Dear Godparents,

I hope you are well and have enjoyed the past few months since I last communicated with you.

As the end of the academic year is approaching, I am writing to update you on how this year went.

In February, I began pursuing my studies towards a Master of Commerce degree specialising in Risk Management of Financial Markets at the University of Cape Town (UCT). So far, this degree has challenged me to think differently to solve problems, and I can really see the growth and progress in my character from when I first started.

Studies and Living arrangements

I have been staying on middle campus at UCT. I stay in a shared private student residence which is essentially sharing a house with nine other housemates. I have really enjoyed having the company and support from my housemates and we get along well. The residence is also convenient as it is central, and I get to walk to my lectures every day.

The favourite part of my degree is the quantitative aspect which is looking at financial markets like stocks, options and performing strategies to manage risk using sophisticated techniques like Monte Carlo simulations. Thus, my favourite course thus far has been quantitative methods where we learnt about simulations, interest rate models and capital allocation which are all ways to price instruments and manage risk.

Activities beyond academics

One of the shocks I have experienced this year compared to other years is how little free time I have to do my other favourite hobbies such as watercolour painting and crocheting. I have been able to be a volunteer at my local church during Sundays, and it has been a great experience and a break from my everyday life. I also have a great relationship with my classmates, and we do activities such as going to the beach or watching movies when we have some spare time.

Future plans

I will complete my degree at the end of December, and it will be the end of my academic journey (for now!). I have plans of pursuing a career in a quantitative field that is related to my degree. Most of the companies offering this opportunity are banks and consulting companies for which I am actively in recruitment process with. These are also in Johannesburg, so the chances of me relocating from my hometown, Plettenberg Bay, to Johannesburg are very high. I am excited for the next step in my life and look forward to the new possibilities. Plett and Cape Town feel very much like home, and I hope one day Johannesburg will feel that way too. I am optimistic about life and the future and that always inspires me to keep growing as life circumstances change.

I hope you have enjoyed my recap of the year, and I will keep in touch with you. As this is my last semester of my studies, I would like to thank you for all your support over the years. I began my studies at UCT in 2021 with an Actuarial Science degree and I later changed to an Economics degree which I fell in love with. I then pursued my Masters degree with a Finance specialisation, and you have been with me throughout the journey. I have had an amazing and privileged time at university, and I am truly grateful for everything.

Thank you for your heart of compassion and making a huge impact on my life. I really would not be here without the support of you. I wish you all the very best in life and wish you joy and abundance for your generosity.

Warm regards,

Avuye