

After a difficult two years at home, I had reconciled myself to the idea of not pursuing my dream career after high school and looking for job. My mother always wanted me to further my education but she could not afford it. I, like so many matriculants, felt discouraged and afraid that the reality of unemployment was drawing near. I confided in Refiloe Seseane (during my Matric year in 2011) who reminded me of the goals I'd set for myself on my vision board through one of the personal development activities we had done through 18twenty8. She further encouraged me to focus on my Matric year and to apply for a bursary opportunity that had become available for young women who wanted to go to university.

When I got communication that I had received the bursary, I was preparing for my Matric preliminary examinations. The Deutsche Bank Foundation agreed to pay for my outstanding grade 12 fees and I received a laptop. The positive news gave my mother hope and it was just the push I needed to complete the coming final examinations.

One of my favourite memories was when we went to meet the Deutsche Bank Foundation staff in December 2011. I was with another bursary recipient, Nofundo Majozi. We were greeted by a group of strong career women working in various departments who were interested in hearing about our stories and goals for the future. What stood out to me was that 'I' wanted to be like those women, 'I' wanted to one day be in a boardroom as a leader in my field. I had never seen women in that role before and that expanded the vision I had for myself. I went on to receive four distinctions for my 2011 Matric results.

Based on my grade 12 results, Deutsche Bank gave me a full scholarship to pursue a career of my choice on the condition that I pass each year. It included food, textbooks, tuition and accommodation. I was ecstatic and my life was changed forever! I started my Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in 2012 majoring in International Relations and Law.

To say the scholarship changed my life is an understatement because it did not just touch my life alone. The burden of not being able to assist me to go to university to further my dreams was lifted off my mother's shoulders and the hope that I would get a better future was restored. I know that I will be in a position where I will be able to assist my younger siblings to go to university when the time comes and I am so empowered to learn more and achieve more.

I graduated with a BA from Wits in April 2015 and it was so incredible. The best day of my life! I aim to further my studies in law as this is where my passion lies. Thank you Deutsche Bank for investing in my future and dreams and to 18twenty8 for believing in me since day one - there are truly no words to explain how much you've changed my life and the blessing that you have been to me and other young women like myself.

Please continue to change lives, give hope to more families and to help many more young women to achieve their dreams. Thank you from the depths of my heart!