



## Student Highlight

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### Richard Adu

Master of Arts in Rural Development Student

#### GETTING TO KNOW RICHARD ADU

Richard Adu was born in Ghana and grew up in the city of Kumasi. His academic journey started at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana. There he received his Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics, and Master's degree in Science in Industrial Finance and Investment. Currently, Richard is enrolled in the Master of Arts in Rural Development (MARD) program at Brandon University, and works as a Research Intern at the Rural Development Institute (RDI). Additionally, Richard is the Graduate Studies Director for the Brandon University Student Union (BUSU) and is an active alumnus of the Africa German Entrepreneurship Academy Summer School in Leipzig, Germany.

#### RESERACH AND WORK EXPERIENCES

Richard has held a variety of positions that have allowed him to gain knowledge and experience in a multitude of disciplines. He recently received a Certificate of Achievement from the African Presidential Leadership Program, and a Certificate of Achievement from Global Open Data Management in Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN ACTION).

As well, as the previous Vice President of External Relations at the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS World), he managed fundraising activities and established strong relationships with organizations - such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the European Union (EU), and various UN bodies. Through this position, he also coordinated the organization of the International Conference for Youth in Agriculture (ICYA) in Novi Sad, Serbia.

#### WHAT'S MORE

- *Richard is recognized as one of the top 100 Leaders of Tomorrow at the Global Biotech Revolution Summit in the United Kingdom.*
- *Richard is interested in contributing to Community Economic Development policies around the world.*
- *Richard recently received a Certification in Digital Humanities from HarvardX.*

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**AJU**  
RICHARD



*We have the responsibility to improve the wellbeing of our communities and ensure community members thrive in all aspects of life.*

## ONGOING PROJECTS

Richard is currently a Research Intern at RDI, working on the Co-Creating a Community Well-Being Framework project. Through this position, Richard is engaging with selected community members and leading discussions to determine how community insights and perspectives can enhance collaboration with the Community Foundation organizations in the community. Richard is also conducting literature reviews, and examining the Community Index of Wellbeing Framework (housed within the Faculty of Health at the University of Waterloo).

Throughout this project, Richard has honed skills in collecting and analyzing data. He is currently working to create deliverables that share project findings effectively with project partners and community members. Richard is deeply interested in data analysis and visualization, which is driven by his fascination with uncovering patterns and stories within large datasets. He is particularly interested in using these tools to solve complex problems and drive innovation. His commitment to continuous learning is demonstrated through his active participation in online courses and workshops, focused on Python programming, predictive analytics, and big data.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Richard is eager to explore new opportunities in rural Canada, aiming to empower communities. He has extensive interdisciplinary expertise in the fields of agricultural economics, policy analysis, business and community development, and entrepreneurship. These collective skills are sure to equip him to excel in any project work, and beyond BU moving forward.



**BRANDON  
UNIVERSITY**

The Rural Development Institute is grateful to be affiliated with a variety of communities, agencies, academics and students across Canada and beyond. These relationships have facilitated the development of unique networks allowing for collaborative projects to take form, and RDI wants to extend its appreciation to all rural researchers.