

Joseph Banda

Family circumstances

Joseph

is from Chikwawa district in the southern region of Malawi. He is the third born in a family of 6 children. He is the first in his family to reach college. His father died and his mother has remarried. The family relies on subsistence farming to earn a small family income. His mother dropped out of education at secondary school.

Education

Joseph went to a government secondary school and then repeated his final year at a private secondary school. He paid for his own fees by doing piece works during the weekends. He achieved **23 points** in his Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE). Student points are calculated by adding their 6 highest subject points together. The better you do, the lower the score; 1-2 points = distinction; 3-4 points = credit; 5-6 points = pass. He was forced to withdraw from college for one semester due to financial constraints and was able to restart after some friends did some fundraising so he could register for classes. He still had a huge fee balance when we met him.

Why Dental?

Joseph

wants to join the health work force to promote healthcare services in Malawi. He would like to own his own dental clinic when he is qualified and save lives through the skills that he has gained at school.



Dental Technician

Prior to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery course starting in 2019, dental services in Malawi were solely provided by dental technicians trained at the Malawi College of Health Sciences in Lilongwe. Dental technicians are a vital component of providing oral services to Malawi's 19 million people.

"When a student gets an education, you would have broken a very big poverty chain in their clan..."

Head of Nursing, Mzuzu University

Thank you for supporting Joseph through his education as a Dental Technician.



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