

Interview with Akay:  
A Ghanaian medicine student who is studying in China but is coming back to her home country to do her practical year.

**Theresa Selent:** *Who are you?*

**Akay:** I'm Akosia from Obuasi in Ghana. But people call me Akay.

**Theresa Selent:** *And why did you come to Kumasi?*

**Akay:** I came here for an internship.

**Theresa Selent:** *Okay. So you studied in China but you are from Ghana, right?*

**Akay:** Yeah, from Ghana.

**Theresa:** *And why did you decide to study in China?*



**Akay:** Well, I didn't get the place here. I tried. But I didn't get it. So in China it was cheaper. So yeah, it was cheaper than Europe, cheaper than U.S. so I decided to go.

**Theresa Selent:** *So before you went there did you do any research or was it like you wanted to do medicine and this was the best opportunity?*

**Akay:** No, actually my cousin was there. And she had a good experience.

**Theresa Selent:** *You have lived in China now for some years and you lived in Ghana in different places what would you consider your home?*

**Akay:** Ghana.

**Theresa Selent:** *Ghana.*

**Akay:** I think home is where family is.

**Theresa Selent:** *And how do you feel living in this sort of campus area?*

**Akay:** It's cool, right? It's okay.

**Theresa Selent:** *And does it mean anything to you, is it like maybe home away or something you feel that is close to home?*

**Akay:** The campus?

**Theresa Selent:** *Yes.*

**Akay:** It's a temporary home.

**Theresa Selent:** *And in terms of Kumasi and working in Ghana? Would you want to stay here or where would you want to work?*

**Akay:** No. Not here. I have so much I want to do. So much I want to study. Maybe when I'm done, here. But I'm not done so everything is open.

**Theresa Selent:** *But will you go back to China?*

**Akay:** Yeah.

**Theresa Selent:** *But only to write the exams?*

**Akay:** Yeah.

**Theresa Selent:** *...or do you have to do something...?*

**Akay:** ...no, I want to continue with surgery so I have to go to another country for that.

**Theresa Selent:** *But you want to go to another country for that?*

**Akay:** Yeah.

**Theresa Selent:** *Where would you want to go next?*

**Akay:** Maybe Germany?

**Theresa Selent:** *And why do you want to go to another country?*

**Akay:** I want experiences from everywhere. I want to learn all the experiences in the whole wide world and bring it to my country.

**Theresa Selent:** *And do you feel it's easier for you to live and work in another country?*

**Akay:** I don't think it will be easier for me to live and work in another country but I just will survive, so...

**Theresa Selent:** *And how was China for you?*

**Akay:** At first, oh I wanted to come back home but then my mum told me that if you have a goal in mind, use that. So I had a goal in mind to finish school. So I did that.

**Theresa Selent:** *So it wasn't so much something you always wanted to do, to be abroad. It was something you had to do?*

**Akay:** Yeah, I had to. But when I went there I realized it was a good experience. I met a lot of people. I met a lot of countries and I realized everybody thinks different so it was a good experience.



**Theresa Selent:** *Now you are here in Kumasi. Do you feel like this is a special place or is it just any other medical campus to you?*

**Akay:** It is just like any other medical campus.

**Theresa Selent:** *Okay. Do you feel good with your decision of studying in China?*

**Akay:** Yeah.

**Theresa Selent:** *And are you happy now that you can spend some time here?*

**Akay:** Yeah, definitely.

**Theresa Selent:** *Are you looking forward being a doctor?*

**Akay:** Yeeaaahhh. But I think I'm not ready yet.

**Theresa Selent:** *Do you think with the education you get here in Ghana and the medical training you can be as good as a doctor as you want to be or do you feel maybe the resources or the technology will limit you in any way?*

**Akay:** No. The resources are stretched. I feel we are more advanced in particular diseases because we see them more. So I want to experience from all over the world because in every other country they are more advanced in a particular disease or particular area.

**Theresa Selent:** *So it's more medical interest you have?*

**Akay:** Yeah. I don't care about technology or anything. Medicine is medicine. In this field the knowledge is more. And I want to have all the knowledge.

**Theresa Selent:** *Do you have many international friends and colleagues?*

**Akay:** Yeah. A Lot.

**Theresa Selent:** *And how do you stay in touch with them?*

**Akay:** WhatsApp, Skype, sometimes we talk. I plan on visiting them when they go back in their countries.

**Theresa Selent:** *And if you look back before going to China did you feel like you want to go out and see the world before you went to China?*

**Akay:** No. But now I want. And I want to go to every single country and visit my friends.

**Theresa Selent:** *That's a nice thing.*

**Akay:** Yeah, travelling is fun. To get to know other peoples culture I think is fun.

**Theresa Selent:** *Nice. So that's it. Thank you very much for the interview, Akay!*

**Akay:** You're welcome.