

## **UoN graduate receives Gates Cambridge Scholarship award**

A University of Nairobi (UoN) graduate, Valentina Ndolo, has received the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship award. Valentina, who graduated from UoN in 2013, will pursue a PhD in Veterinary Medicine, Churchill College.

According to her profile on the Gates Cambridge website, Valentina will study the occurrence patterns in Kenya of anthrax, a life-threatening infection commonly found in animals.

"Anthrax threatens food security and the economic productivity of Kenya," she writes. "My study will apply mathematical modeling to develop risk maps to guide the activities of the government and other stakeholders involved in the control of anthrax in Kenya."

Valentina has also founded the STEMing Africa Initiative to advocate for the active inclusion of women in STEM by supporting talented female graduates in STEM to secure scholarships for advanced degrees at leading universities worldwide. The initiative has won funding from UNESCO and the Forum for African Women Educationalists among others.

At UoN, Valentina pursued a BSc in Biochemistry. In July 2015, she was offered a Commonwealth Scholarship by DFID to pursue an MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine at the University of Oxford.

In a letter from the Provost, Gates Cambridge Trust, Prof. Barry Everitt, wrote that the number of Gates Cambridge scholars now stands at seven since the start of the first class in 2001. The Gates Cambridge Scholarships are among the most prestigious international scholarships available and Cambridge's global standing is well known.

The University of Nairobi congratulates Valentina on this achievement and wishes her well in her endeavors.

[www.gatescambridge.org](http://www.gatescambridge.org)