The “New York Experience”, which I had embarked on over the summer is the flagship event of the Amos Bursary, which lasted for a month. The Amos Bursary is a scholarship which was created for ambitious students from an African and Caribbean diaspora who do not let their circumstances prevent them from thriving. This scholarship is constituted by several personal development and leadership programmes, which equips the men on the Amos Bursary with the tools to become high-achievers & the employability skills which are highly sought after by employers. Being commercially aware and having a varied amount of work experience is highly sought after by recruiters and those with international work experience is valued by these employers; thus boasting the importance of this New York Experience.

Whilst in the United States, my time was mostly spent working at my chosen firm – Adjaye Associates. Outside of the office, I lived with 6 other like-minded Amos Bursary scholars, who worked at either KPMG, Linklaters, or Adjaye Associates. Together, we embarked upon a variety of activities, including a trip to the United Nations, a tour of Harlem, practicing golf at the Hampshire Country Club and a trip to Washington.
Life In New York

In New York, I stayed at Macon St., Brooklyn with 6 other Amos Bursary Scholars. Here, we were introduced to an area with a strong sense of community. Whilst traversing through the different avenues, the people in the local community would always greet me and would often ask what I came to New York for when they heard my accent. This led to me feeling very welcomed & appreciated by those in the area where I resided.

Food. To say the least, the food was stupendous! In New York, the other Amos Bursary Scholars & I had a household budget, which was meant to cover out maintenance. Through careful budgeting, we ended up saving a sufficient amount of money, which was used to fund our trip to the Great Adventure – Six Flags, as well as visits to restaurants.

Being able to share a household with like-minded individuals, who are of similar backgrounds as I am, who have high aspirations & act with the utmost decorum, really allowed me to thrive, through the conversations that we had in New York. Being around people of that calibre & being able to work at the top firms in the world with them really showed me how far we have come.

“Who would have thought that we would have had the opportunity to fly to New York and work at the biggest firms in the world? The Amos Bursary really has changed our lives.” – Statement echoed by all of us Amos Bursary Scholars.

Living in New York also meant that I was able to meet up with some of my entrepreneurial friends who lived in the area; Blank and Legendary E, of Mub.io! Here, we were able to discuss how our businesses were running & our plans for the future, they also took me around Manhattan!

Legendary E (Right), Blank (Middle) & Myself (left)
I was working at Adjaye Associates, alongside my fellow Amos Bursary scholar – Nana Osei Kofi, for three weeks. Whilst at this architectural firm, which is renowned for its cultural curations, such as: The National Museum of African American History and Culture, we embarked on a series of research projects. These research projects were on local and global scales. We studied the South Bronx & their culture, which was a local project as well as global projects which included us researching Mexico and their indigenous populations, such as; the Cora Peoples. We were also fortunate enough to look into the political climate of Guyana & the implications of their oil deal with ExxonMobil and how this impacted the other sectors which Guyana operated in, as a means of acquiring wealth. Ultimately, from working at this Architectural firm; I was able to develop my commercial awareness, from studying a variety of countries, and a plethora of challenging issues which are currently occurring in those countries. Being a student studying Archaeology and Ancient History, one may believe that their prospects are limited to the field that they are studying. However, the projects involving the indigenous populations of Mexico, as well as the skills which I have developed throughout my degree really allowed me to flourish in the workplace. This work placement really has allowed me to get a better grasp of what I would like to do after I finish university and I am really thankful to those who made this possible.

_Fellow Amos Bursary scholar, Nana and I with the owner of Adjaye Associates – Sir David Adjaye_
The United Nations Experience

Once I got settled into the American time-zone (5 hours behind), we had our first planned event: the trip to the United Nations!

Here, we had the renowned tour around the United Nations, where we got to see the different rooms and art displayed around the building. The picture displayed above contains a maxim which the United Nations follow:

“Do unto others as you would have them unto you”.

Not only did I embark on a tour around the United Nations, I was fortunate enough to be a part of an exclusive panel discussion with the United Kingdom’s representative to the United Nations in New York – Karen Pierce. Here, we were discussing the current affairs of the United Nations, as well as their stance on social mobility, economic development & democracy, sustainable development and other pressing contemporary issues. This experience allowed me to express my ideas & concerns with the United Nations’ British Ambassador. Ultimately, this developed my interest in current affairs, and helped improve my commercial awareness, as we were discussing global issues.

Meeting with the UK’s Ambassador for the United Nations
In New York, I also visited Harlem for a day – where I received an exclusive tour from the Mr. Apollo himself, at the Harlem theatre & I visited Sylvia’s, the renowned soul-food restaurant.

In Harlem, I was able to visit some of New York’s most significant areas, which pioneered Afro-Caribbean culture in the United States. I felt as though Harlem’s culture and their environment was very similar to the area which I grew up in: Hackney, London, as it is very diverse and full of culture.

Here, I sung with my fellow Amos Bursary Scholar, inside of the Apollo theatre, where legends such as; Michael Jackson & The Supremes once sung! I was also able to visit the best Afro-Caribbean restaurants in New York, which allowed me to network with some really successful people, from similar backgrounds & environments as the other Amos Bursary Scholars & myself.
The Hampshire Country Club

“Only rich people play golf; this sport is not for people like us”
The statement above is one which I used to believe; I just could not see myself playing it!

Whilst in New York, I was fortunate enough to visit this beautiful resort, where I was taught how to play golf by a professional... to say the least, it was an excellent opportunity! Here, I was able to see how the sport could be used as a medium to network, by playing with my fellow Amos Bursary scholars. This experience was definitely my favourite out of the bunch, as it allowed me to experience scenes which I had never seen before; the landscape & the club was stunning!

Here, I was introduced to Luke & Lizzie, who were our hosts for the day. The hospitality which they showed us, and the knowledge that they imparted to us was truly appreciated. Ultimately, at the end of our day at the Hampshire Country Club, my former belief – that golf was not for me had changed. This experience allowed me to exit my comfort-zone, by trying something new and I would definitely recommend for anyone who reads this to give it a try!

Everyone at the Hampshire Country Club!
My trip in the United States ended with a refreshing visit to Washington, D.C. Here, we stayed at Washington Hilton for the duration of our last weekend.

Here, we visited Howard University, where we were given a tour of their campus, as well as their Business school. We were fortunate enough to be given the tour by Mr. Howard himself – Grant Robertson, who told us about how he grew up in Brooklyn, as well as the experiences which he had at Howard. This opportunity allowed us to meet people who were our age, that were in similar positions as us; going through University & trying to make the most of our time at university.

We were also able to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture – a Museum which was introduced by the firm which I worked at; Adjaye Associates. Here, we were able to see the history of African American’s, which had a profound impact on us, as it covered some very sensitive topics.

The trip to Washington was a good way to end our trip to the United States, as it was accompanied by good weather, good people & some amazing sights!
Conclusion

To say the least, the experience that I had whilst in the United States was phenomenal. I would like to use this page to give my thanks to those who made this wonderful opportunity possible.

**The Amos Bursary**

For organising such a wonderful trip and for the continued support over the past three years

**The University of Leicester**

For providing me with support. I would like to give my thanks to Mary Harlow in particular

**Ede and Ravenscroft**

For making this experience possible by facilitating my trip to the United States

**Adjaye Associates**

For providing me with an internship at their New York office
Expenditure

The financial aid from Ede and Ravenscroft which facilitated my trip to the United States was used to help me raise the target which was issued to all of the other Amos Bursary Scholars; £1,500.

The £1,500 was used to help cover my flights, maintenance & accommodation, at a subsidised rate.