



2014 BHEARD Scholar  
**Nana Baah Pepra-  
Ameyaw**

# Profile

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| <b>Country of Study:</b> | USA   |
| <b>University:</b>       | Michigan State University   |
| <b>Department:</b>       | Food Science and Human Nutrition  |
| <b>Student Position:</b> | Graduate Research Assistant — Ph.D.   |
| <b>Home Country:</b>     | Ghana   |
| <b>Home Institution:</b> | Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)  |
| <b>Home Position:</b>    | Postgraduate Assistant  |
| <b>Mentored By:</b>      | USA: Prof. Gale Strasburg and Prof. Perry Ng<br>Ghana: Prof. Ibok Oduro<br>Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology |

## *Research Area: Food Science*

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: August 2014

HOMETOWN: Accra, Ghana

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: Chemistry, University of Cape Coast, GHANA

GRADUATE EDUCATION: Food Science and Technology, KNUST, GHANA

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Food Science

Nana is interested in applying basic scientific principles to understand the functionality of food, and using this knowledge to improve the quality of processed food.

### PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Nana says his ultimate goal is to take a position in research and teaching in Ghana where he can pursue his research interests and contribute to the training of innovative and entrepreneurial scientists. He also hopes to assist with the building of a scientific infrastructure to serve the government and private sector. "I am very passionate about science education and I believe that for Africa to develop and make use of the abundant natural resources available to us, it is important to encourage young Africans to understand science and how it affects the world that we live in," says Nana. He is currently involved in a mentorship program that encourages young students to pursue science careers and take an active interest in international scientific advancements.

In his spare time, Nana says he just likes to have fun. "I enjoy a good party and I like playing the guitar, chess and soccer.." Nana is a "huge fan" of anime and enjoys science fiction. "In fact, I'm a diehard Star Trek fan. I am fascinated by cosmology and I like visiting the planetarium..."