

Felix Morara



"I was born and raised in Nakuru, Kenya. My family and I have a complicated relationship. Growing up, I was very close to them, especially since I only have 2 brothers. After leaving for boarding school in South Africa, our relationship grew more complicated. I was discovering things about myself that my family wasn't as comfortable learning, so I found myself living almost a double life. The 'me' at school and the 'me' at home were not the same person; at home I would need to cover things up.

I've had to learn to be independent from life's necessities. There's things I hadn't known about myself simply because I didn't have the right people to talk about it with while growing up. Coming to Yale was less about learning to be "independent", and more about identifying what I wanted to create in this new space. I think a lot about my interactions with others, and how they affect the person I want to become.

Here, I've gained clarity in understanding what's important to me-I'm a lot more involved with the LGBTQ+ community, something I never had the chance to be involved in back home. But queerness isn't something many people are comfortable with in the black community, so I don't know how that will manifest itself after my life at Yale.

For most of my life, I was interested in medicine. Growing up-when I was still very close to my family-my dad contracted meningitis. Not knowing how to treat it, and sitting there waiting for him to get better, my motivation for studying chemistry came from wanting to make a difference in people's health. For most of my life I assumed there's a story I'm supposed to be building, and need to live up to. But I also need to enjoy the moments I'm living

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in right now, and chemistry doesn't fit. I'm trying to diversify and find things I'm actually interested in learning, to fit that into my "journey" later on." -Felix Morara, '22 #HumansOfOISS

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