



Saphir Esmail, class of 2022

Africa General

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Current country of residence:

Democratic Republic of Congo

My name is Saphir Esmail and I am from Kinshasa, DR Congo. I am the Country Representative in the DRC for PROPARCO, a French development financial institution. I am passionate about the advancement of Africa and its people and I hope to play a significant role in that mission. Outside of work, I've been a DJ for over 14 years and I love bringing people together through music.

The Lauder Institute and its community have provided me with so much including a rich academic experience and most importantly, lifelong friendships that span the entire globe. When I started the Lauder program in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lauder alumni community stepped up to support my class by offering mentorship, sharing their experiences, and providing professional opportunities. I want to join the LIAA Board not only to show my gratitude to the alumni community but to also be a catalyst for increasing alumni programming and engagement globally and identifying ways to fund these initiatives sustainably.

I plan to contribute to the Board by being a liaison between the younger Lauder alumni and the broader alumni community, partnering with other Board members to create and implement a long-term funding strategy, and coordinating with LRAs to facilitate regional programming and events. My experience as a Wharton Alumni Fellow has taught me how rallying the alumni community behind a common cause can create so much value and I hope to bring this to the Lauder alumni community as a Board member.