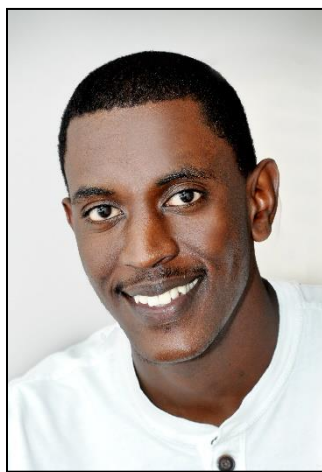




**William Kayitare, The 2018-19
Chevron-Xenel Ph.D. Gateway Fellow
at International House, UC Berkeley**



Growing up in a single parent home in Kigali after the 1994 Rwandan genocide, education was more a privilege than a right. From a young age, school served as my escape from all the problems at home. However, after taking a few advanced courses as a high school student, I started to appreciate their real life applications, a realization that quickly altered my perceptions about education. I understood then that education is an instrument that can be used to address socio-economic challenges, instead of a means for hiding from them.

I am excited to be a synthetic organic chemist within a rigorous doctoral program that offers an outstanding chemistry faculty, state-of-the-art resources and a dynamic intellectual environment. My goal is to make and study bioactive molecules with desirable properties, and thereby to extend chemistry's knowledge and products toward meeting scientific challenges and global problems.

I am thrilled at the prospect of being part of the International House community. This opportunity will help me to transition smoothly into graduate school and matriculate into a well-versed scholar that I have always aspired to be.



The Chevron-Xenel Ph.D. Gateway Fellowship was established in 2006 by Chevron Corporation and Xenel International USA, with the goal of bettering the relationship between East and West. This fellowship supports residency at International House to an eligible first year doctoral student from preferred country and academic area with demonstrated financial need.