Stanford



Mandla T. Msipa

Master of Arts Student in Communication, admitted Autumn 2023

Bio

BIO

Mandla Msipa (he/him) is an undergraduate at Stanford University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Political Science and a Coterminal Master of Arts in Communications (Media Studies) .

A Zimbabwean-American, Mandla spent 13 years in Harare under the SJET school system and attained A-Level qualifications from Cambridge International. After graduating, he worked as a Junior Master at St. John's College, Harare, teaching in the History and English departments. After his freshman year, Mandla interned in the DC office of US Senator Edward J. Markey (D-MA), where he worked on education and labor policy, communications, and constituent services.

At Stanford, Mandla is a Research Assistant in the Political Science Department, where he studies political demonization in media and legislative discourse. He serves as the Financial Manager at Hammarskjöld House and is an Admit Weekend Coordinator for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. He also served on the Undergraduate Senate in 2024, advocating for housing accessibility and student co-operatives.

Mandla's research interests lie at the intersection of politics, education, and digital media. He is particularly focused on K-12 governance structures, teacher-student relationship dynamics at the system level, digital literacy education, and the role of internet exposure in the early formation of political ideology. Additionally, he is interested in how information and communication technologies (ICTs) can be leveraged for democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa.