

Since ancient times, geography and maps are fundamentals for understanding our world, it is far more than location, position, coordinate and position of things on earth. So, while growing up; I had actually developed so much interest in studying geography in the higher institution, thanks to my high school geography teacher who actually made geography one of the most interesting subject. Initially, I wanted to study Geography as my first degree, but unfortunately I was given surveying and geoinformatics, then I made my research and found out that surveying and geography are closely associated.

However, Being fully aware of my interest in proffering solution to most environmental problem, I proceeded to studying Surveying and Geoinformatics from the federal polytechnic Ilaro, one of the best among its contemporaries where I finished my ND and HND which is equivalent to a BSc degree in my country Nigeria, and I finished with a CGPA of 3.34/4.0 (UPPER CREDIT DIVISION).

During my HND, geographical information system (GIS) was my best course, as it serves as a tool for capturing, storing, analyzing and displaying geographical/spatial data related to positions on Earth's surface. It is then best said that geography remains the foundation of GIS. Advancing my knowledge and skills in GIS has been extremely beneficial, taking practical courses on some GIS tools like ArcGIS, QGIS, GRASS GIS, gave me so many advantages while I was involved in some departmental projects where actually acquired some leadership skills such as street guide mapping, land use/ land cover analysis(LULC), environmental impact assessment(EIA).

My continuous search for knowledge in GIS world made me considered working on a more complex project as my final year project; my project topic was "FLOOD RISK MAPPING", aimed at analyzing and assessing areas which are vulnerable to flooding within the given project site, Remote sensing and GIS technology were adopted in other to achieve the aim of the project. The data obtained were topographic map and Landsat TM images, in which they were processed, digitized, interpolated, classified and overlaid using ILWIS GIS software module to generate classified Land Use/land cover map, digital terrain map and flood vulnerability map of the study area for flood risk analysis purpose.

My final year project was also one of the biggest moment in my life even though I was the youngest member to the team, yet I played the major leadership roles, I was also the department's sport coordinator; these responsibilities has actually equipped me with a lot of leadership skills, helped me to be more time-conscious and disciplined.

As graduate of Surveying and Geoinformatics, I worked with a government agency in the Bureau of Land and Survey as a charting officer, Charting department where I was actively involved in land inspection on related land development proposals, charting of survey plans for mortgages, assignment lease, sublease and power of attorney as well as updating the base map.

During my one year National Youth Service which is mandatory for every graduate in my country as a service to the nation, I was posted to a high school in the northern part of the country to teach geography. Being a geography teacher, I was very much interested in helping the young students with my basic knowledge in GIS, and it was also an opportunity for me to gather some soft skills such as communication, writing, listening skills and also mastering the act of giving proper attention to details.

To sum up, my decision to further pursue a master's degree in Environmental Science in your great institution is because of the diversity of opportunities, the departmental structure and most importantly how GIS as a course of study is well structured and practically oriented. I am looking forward to completing the master program in GIS with a good result, also fully equipped as a GIS expert/analyst, I would like to work with bigger government agencies using my acquired skills; it would as well be a great honor to use my skills to also bring much-needed innovations to the community.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

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