

Understanding the climate change, knowing when and how rain falls, getting clarifications on how mountains are formed are my aspirations as a child. I was the inquisitive type, and I could remember how much I pestered my mom to give me answers but as a child, I had to hold on to what I was told. I graduated from high school having it in mind to become a medical doctor as many children of my age would want to become either an engineer, medical practitioner, pilot and so on.

The course I studied in my First Degree was nothing I planned for. I applied to study Science Laboratory Technology with the hope of furthering my studies to the University to study Medicine but was given Surveying and Geoinformatics and that was where my journey started. Before I accepted the offer, I made research about what the course entails and there I got to know that Surveying and Geoinformatics is a profession that provides data for the spatial location of Earth Features and other environmental parameters which are needed for mapping, cadastral work, designing and location of engineering works and exploitation of natural resources, space exploration, natural and man-made disasters, communication facilities, utilities and the like. I decided to give it a trial and see if I will be able to overcome the hurdles that comes with it.

With the determination to excel wherever I find myself and to be a force to be reckoned with, I invested my time in my studies. Taking courses such as Introduction to Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Cadastral Survey, Engineering Survey, Geographic Information System, Hydrographical Survey, Adjustment computation, Geodetic Survey, Physics, Principles of Geomatics and so on, did not only prepare me for the professional world but also equipped me with efficient knowledge needed to take on any challenge in the field and to proceed in my education. I was taken through field works including training on how to effectively use the survey instruments ranging from level instruments, the Theodolite, Total Station, and GPS. I was taught how to use the AutoCAD software likewise ArcGIS which is used to view, analyse, edit, manage, and visualize geographical data and pattern. My final year project (Landfill Suitability Study) was done with the use of ArcGIS and using it for my project made me very conversant with its use. I finally fell in love with the profession and totally forgot about being a medical practitioner. My love for the profession pushed me into graduating as the best student in the faculty. The compulsory national youth service in Nigeria was done in Nigeria Geological Survey Agency. I was paired with professionals who trained me on how to effectively pick points using the GPS. I was actively involved in the collection of geographical information such as the location of bridges, and road barriers in states across the country. At that point I realized I want to major in Geographical Information System and its tools

I have gained valuable professional experience working with Olusegun Adeniyi & Associates, but it is a known fact that the profession requires both Academic ability and Professional experience to provide solutions to technical problems in the field that is where I realized that I need to get myself equipped with the ability to critically understand GIS theories and practices, and understand the technical skills and tools used by the modern GIS professionals.

A degree from the United Kingdom has a remarkable international recognition and is globally accepted by international universities, high ranking employers as well as government establishments thereby giving me high chances of being placed with leading companies.

Asides this, knowing that the Uk universities are inspected by QAA to assess the standards of teaching, learning and research to ensure that set benchmarks are met is enough assurance and motivation to want to study in Uk. Also, the United Kingdom is known to have unrivalled cultural diversity which gives me the chance to meet numerous international students with different culture and behaviour which is needed to develop a range of skills which are necessary to be part of the global workforce.

Fortunately, I stumble on a Geographical Information System which is from your school and when I read further, I realized that the course modules align with my area of interest. What interests me the more is the learning and assessment methods. I love field trips, most especially field work proposed by your institution as they give me more practical knowledge that I look forward to having. Also, reading the alumni message about the course, I am sure that your institution is the best place to be. I am certain that at the end of the course, I will be fully equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to be among the top professionals in the field, and a scholar who is vast in publishing informative materials on Geographical Information System

Getting the opportunity to study amongst your student community will be a dream come true for me and I am looking forward to having a great university experience because I know I am fully ready both mentally, and financially to take up the challenge.

Thanks, and Best Regards.

**Zainab Ifeoluwa, Shokunbi**