

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (MScE. GEODESY AND GEOMATICS ENGINEERING, UNB)

During my high school days, I was intrigued by the way sailors travel up the sea without seeing land, the vast rivers and oceans on earth, the basic laws of nature and material actions when dealing with the forces of gravity. These led to my keen interest in geography and physics in high school, which I found amusing and enlightening, ultimately leading to a B2 in both subjects during my West African Secondary School Certificate Exam. My passion for geography and physics led to my choice of Surveying and Geoinformatics as an undergraduate degree.

I was first introduced to hydrography in my third year of studies. I explored how the influence of the sun and moon on earth impacts water bodies, contributing to rise and fall in tides, how GPS and compass support navigation on water, how depth of water bodies are measured by various methods, from the basic lead line technique to the use of technical devices showing advancement in technology. I also took coastal management and mapping courses that illuminated both negative and positive ways about the effects of human interaction in coastal areas. Through planning a field trip to coastal areas around the state, the lecturer was able to support our vivid imaginations. I carried out projects on tidal observation and analysis, bathymetry survey of river channels, which have strengthened my knowledge of the coursework. I have research backgrounds spanning across my undergraduate studies in which mini projects were assigned to students both individually and collectively to make up our final assessment. The major highlight being my academic thesis which was centred on “groundwater potential zone mapping of Laniba Akinyele LGA, Oyo state Nigeria using geospatial multicriterial analysis and hydrogeophysics. The aim of this thesis was to determine and delineate potential zones for groundwater development in the area being surveyed.

During my fourth year, I interned with a hydrography survey company. Working there exposed me to practical applications of hydrographic surveying and geographic information systems to solve real-world problems, from the oil and gas industry by positioning and geophysical seabed survey services to bathymetry surveys. Due to my passion for Surveying and Geoinformatics, I graduated with a first class honours. Upon graduation, I decided to build on the existing knowledge and skills I had acquired during my internship and my academic years. I got a job as a graduate intern data processor in a hydrographic company. I have worked onshore, analysing bathymetry, sonar, sub-bottom profiler and magnetometer contact data. The two year experience gathered from these projects both as an undergraduate and a graduate intern as well as interactions with professional hydrographers has improved my knowledge and skills, thus highlighting areas for improvement. I am intrigued by the new discovery of the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) and the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) used for hydrographic surveys, their mode of operation, reliability in terms of time management and accuracy in data collection. To build on this solid foundation, I have decided to further my education by doing my masters in Geodetics and Geomatics Engineering majoring in ocean mapping and hydrography. With my demonstrated intellectual ability, I'm sure I'm going to overcome all the difficulties that might emerge during my master's program and make the best possible grades that will place me in the top positions to achieve my career goals.

My career goals revolve around improving the quality of Nigeria's hydrographic survey services through reliable methods of data acquisition, quality assurance and control processes, project hazard

identification and risk analysis prior to start-up and environmental management. I intend to do this by providing geophysical data processing services for around 4-5 years for companies like Shell Canada, Subsea7 and Fugro Geoservices. In the long run, after some twenty years of practicing and consulting, I intend to give back to my community by returning to academia. I strive to provide students with insights into the theoretical and practical aspects of the discipline and share my success stories, inspiring them to do even better than I have done in the field of hydrography. I strongly believe that I would do this because of my proven intellectual ability, leadership, technical and professional skills.

The University of New Brunswick (UNB) offers an interdisciplinary, practical approach to hydrography teaching using vessel-based acoustic acquisition techniques and that is one of the major reasons why I would love to study the master's program there. It has a top-rated, internationally known department which provides students access to associated research centres and the latest geodetic instruments. This automatically makes a graduate recognized as a quality benchmark for employers which makes this university ideal for me. It would be a privilege to be able to pursue ocean mapping and hydrography at UNB. I am confident that I will meet the high standards set by the university.

I look forward to your decision on my application.

Thank you.

Olamide Esther Anifowoshe.