

We have all been exposed to the problems that the modern economy has generated, living in a city like Medellín that is rapidly developing and with growing problems of pollution, overpopulation, and poverty started to make me think about the causes and solutions that could be made to improve and solve these issues. I want to apply my knowledge to be part of a different approach that involves making use of resources in an efficient way that does not compromise our future.

During my time at the construction company Mensula I faced the contamination problems generated by the construction industry first-hand and it sparked my interest in sustainability issues. The experience motivated me to do a research project in LEED certification for green buildings. I was then able to play a leadership role in helping Mensula achieve their environmental goals. During this time, I took the online course "Era of sustainable development" directed by the economist Jeffrey Sachs, it helped me to see sustainability from a broader perspective and empowered me to think how it could be possible to make a change in the industry and give a deeper meaning to my career.

Consequently, I took a position working with Green Loop company that provides services for sustainable design and construction. As a project analyst, I offered consulting services to construction companies. The role was to provide solutions on issues such as lighting and acoustics and how they can be used to reduce environmental impact and costs. I also lead the compilation of policies for the efficient management of resources of the Exito shopping center chain and establishing strategies such as implementation of efficient drainage and waste management for the Vera District, the first project certified as a sustainable community in Colombia, which will positively impact the sector. Currently, I work on my own project where together with people from different fields, we develop an application aimed to make a change in the way engineering and architectural projects are managed; making processes more simple, intuitive and human centered by technological means. This also involves finding solutions presented on similar systems and applying those to this project.

Work experience has allowed me to obtain analytical, critical and design thinking skills. Now, in order to get into the next stage and gain the necessary skills to succeed, I consider studying the Master's Sustainable Development in Leipzig University is the appropriate option because it provides a high-quality program that is research oriented and is based on an interdisciplinary knowledge approach, along with the benefits of learning with a diverse group of people. Moreover, it would represent an unique opportunity to create feasible solutions for our current and future

problems with the prospect to apply them into many areas. I am interested in the track Innovation and Transition Management as my first preference and Earth System Governance as my second. My goal is to study and analyse new techniques to find useful ideas for social and technical change that are relevant to this moment and that can be adapted in the long term for the sustainable development purpose.

At the end of the program I want to contribute to the science and technology area with the education I can gain with the support of the University, especially on how to transition my country Colombia to a decarbonized economy through innovative energy policies. I aspire to share these ideas by teaching engineering students at the environmental school of the University of Antioquia and participate at its research headquarters "SIU" (Sede de Investigación Universitaria).

Finally, I strongly believe that studying Sustainable Development in Leipzig University together with the partner universities is the way to advance in my studies, sharpen up my skills and follow my dream of making the world a more inclusive and healthy place to live. It gives me a greater purpose in life as the only way to be successful to me is through growing and giving back.