**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

During my high school studies, I had no clue about geology, but I knew I always wanted to dare the impossible. I remember while cooking for the family some years ago as a teenager, before securing my university admission, I imagined and voiced out that “I will love to be someone who can look at the surface of the earth and know what is going on underground”. At that time, I applied to be admitted to the department of civil engineering, but luckily, I was admitted for Marine Geology, which unknown to me was the realization of my dreams. Upon gaining admission, my passion continued to be accomplishing the seemingly impossible. During my first year in college as a Marine Geology student, I still sought admission into Civil Engineering but was not successful. On a certain day, it suddenly dawned on me that I needed to concentrate fully on studying my current course – Marine Geology. Thus, from my third year in college, I overcame all distractions and followed my earlier-found purpose, I found courses such as Geophysics, Geostatistics, and others very interesting and eventually graduated successfully with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Geology.

In pursuit of further studies, I enrolled for a Post Graduate Diploma and Master of Technology program in Applied Geophysics and Exploration Geophysics respectively. During my Postgraduate Diploma, I majored in environmental engineering and hydrogeological geophysics, where I conducted a pre-study assessing subsurface structure and depth-to-bedrock to unravel factors that will reduce the longevity of roads under construction, and proffer solutions early enough. Subsequently, I majored in petroleum geophysics for my master’s degree. Although my lecturers did everything within their powers to support my grasp of key concepts and achievement of excellence in studies, infrastructural inadequacy, data inaccessibility and the short supply of relevant software in my department were colossal constraints, but never deterred me from graduating excellently with a Distinction and as one of the best students in my department. The initial challenges faced during my previous studies and research warranted my ambitions of seeking better opportunities abroad to achieve my dream of making a vital contribution to my field and I found the University of Georgia with its wealth of human, technological and institutional resources in Geology.

Due to my passion for practical knowledge, I undertook a research intern position with the Nigeria Geological Survey Agency (NGSA), Abuja, Nigeria. NGSA is the Nigerian government agency with the statutory role of providing relevant and up-to-date geoscience information throughout the country. During my stay with NGSA, I partook in two major field experiences namely: The Hydrogeological survey of Uyo and its Environs, located in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. We collected water and soil samples from different dumpsites to determine the leachate water contamination level through multiple laboratory analyses and a Geophysical survey of Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. We employed the electrical resistivity method to delineate the water table, subsurface structure, and depth-to-bedrock of the study area. Laboratory analysis of samples collected and probable solution to the contaminated water during these exercises was not disclosed to interns leaving a burning desire to know more. My passion for the hydrological/hydrogeological systems of the world was rekindled during my internship and proffering solutions to the prevalent problems in my locality is what I intend to achieve after I have successfully acquired a PhD degree under the tutelage of experts in my chosen area of specialization (hydrology/hydrogeology).

After my master’s degree course work and project analysis, while awaiting my final thesis defence, I again enrolled as an intern with Sunridge Exploration and Mining Service Limited and participated as a team member for a Lead-zinc deposit project within Afikpo in Ebonyi State, Nigeria using geochemical exploration method. Also, I served as a team lead for a Columbite-Tourmaline deposit assessment at Akwa-Ibami, Biase, Cross River State, Nigeria. I also had my first training on Alluvial mining for gold deposits in Gwagwalada, F.C.T, Nigeria. All these field exposures during these internships period broadened my interpersonal, teamwork, leadership, and communication skills through daily activities, meetings, completed assignments, and delivery of oral and written reports. My knowledge of concepts and field practices in geology, geophysics, and by extension geochemistry was undoubtedly extended.

In addition, I engaged in a lot of voluntary services. As a high school leaver, I took over the mentorship of some teenage girls to motivate them to excellent living and about 90% of them are college graduates and highfliers in their chosen careers today. Also, I concurrently took private classes for primary school pupils and junior secondary school students until I began my master’s degree program. Afterwards, I was appointed in 2019 to lead the women's arm of an organization, where I mentor about 200 college girls yearly and discuss topics on weekly basis bothering academics, choice of career, morality, spirituality, and career success principles. In addition to these, my passion to inspire others makes me suitable in accepting any opportunity for public speaking. This earned me the opportunity to deliver a talk in a state-wide women’s retreat on the theme “Who is leading you”, amongst others. During the COVID-19, I volunteered to participate as a state technical facilitator and thereafter continued in several other health campaigns, all geared towards contributing to a safe and healthy society.

I reiterate my earlier assertion that the University of Georgia with its wealth of human, technological and institutional resources in geology such as Prof. Adam M. Milewski, the state-of-the-art infrastructure, and the deep commitment of UGA to excellence, strongly influenced my decision to choose and apply to the University of Georgia. Acquiring further conceptual knowledge, practical experiences, and academic mentorship from Prof. Adam M. Milewski will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity I do not want to miss. I hope to be equipped with intellectual improvement, research skills, publication experience, and other skills, which will help me excel in my future career as a geologist, contribute to my nation’s development, and further our academic field locally and globally.

I, therefore, humbly apply to the University of Georgia for a doctoral position in Geology. I know this is the right decision for me at this time in achieving my dreams and I am confident to undertake the daunting challenge of doctoral research owing to my academic background, requisite skills, practical fieldwork, and research experiences which will help me make the most of the program and unleash my “true” potentials.

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