

International Student Exchange 2016 – 2019

Student Feedback Questionnaire

The purpose of this questionnaire is to evaluate the lessons learned of the AIR international student exchange.

By filling out this feedback report, you agree that your picture and experience will be published on the homepage of the AIR project. <http://www.air-project.org/>

Name of student:	Kealeboga Radiposo
Gender:	Male
Age:	27
Hosting university:	Nelson Mandela
Sending university:	BIUST
Period of exchange:	2 weeks
Field of study/major:	MEng in Energy Engineering
Field of interest during exchange:	Solar and Wind Energy
Further graduation plans (e.g. PhD program):	PhD Program

Please tick the appropriate box	I strongly agree	I agree	I neither agree nor disagree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Program					
I gained insights into the practical implementation of RE in the host country (sight visits etc.)	✓				
I gained knowhow in field of my study		✓			
The courses were helpful for my further research		✓			
The agenda was well structured	✓				
Organization					
The journey preparations were well organized	✓				
The support during the exchange was good	✓				
The post processing of the exchange was well organized					
The reimbursement process was satisfactory					

The accommodation was pleasant	✓				
Local transportation was well organized	✓				
I socialized with local students		✓			
I recommend the exchange	✓				
Others:	What would you like to be changed/ be improved for the future? The programme was well organized and I can't find fault with anything Did you experience any difficulties during your exchange? No difficulties experienced				

Please write a report about your student exchange including organization, agenda, experience, lessons learned, suggestions for improvement, and tips for other students (max. 590 words, Arial 12)

The organization of the program was superb to say the least. I left my country not knowing what to expect but nonetheless keeping an open mind. Arrangements were made in due time for my travelling, i.e. from booking of the flight tickets to accommodation and transportation within Port Elizabeth. The accommodation that I was offered was among the best in the city. I was literally a stone throw away from the beach and that was not only exciting, but refreshing as well especially since I am coming from a hot, landlocked country. I was treated like royalty when it came to food options as I could eat from two good restaurants within the vicinity of the hotel.

A program was laid out at the onset of the short course on Wind Energy. The objectives and outline were clearly communicated at the beginning and I knew right there that it was going to be fun learning experience. The facilitator was not only approachable but he was eloquent and engaging which made learning a pleasure. Prior to attending the course, I knew very little about the operation and composition of wind turbines. Coming from a country that has not done much in terms of installing and utilizing renewable energy technologies, the course was eye opening. Initially, I did not know much about the requirements of establishing a wind farm, the costs incurred and the issues surrounding the technologies. The course put everything in perspective for me. However, it was not until I went to the 27 MW Metrowind Wind Farm that everything came together for me. It was during this trip that I was able to comprehend fully all that I had been learning throughout the week. Seeing the wind turbines operating and appreciating the energy generated on the SCADA system was the icing on the cake for me. The interaction that I had with the staff at the wind farm added to my knowledge and further ignited my interest in wind energy. Initially, I had always believed that wind energy was for countries on the coast as they had a lot more wind resource than landlocked countries. My perspective on this has greatly

shifted as I was made aware of the low wind turbines that exist that could capitalize on slow wind speeds and thus generate sufficient energy for one's needs.

The course also enabled me to interact and network with people who are from different backgrounds and industries who had amassed knowledge and experience in wind energy technologies. This was one of the highlights of the program for me as I was exposed to a lot of information that I had no access to before. Moreover, I was able to appreciate other people's cultures and backgrounds which is something I always look forward to. At the end of the course, I had the opportunity to visit House Rhino, a self-sustaining house that is an off-grid and zero waste house. The house also harvests water from the rain via the roof and even on the driveway. I had the opportunity to also visit the Algae plant in NMMU and PiaSolar which is a solar installation company near Port Elizabeth. I would highly recommend this program to any student who is keen to acquire knowledge on RET technologies and make new acquaintances in the process. Once embraced with the ultimate desire to want to learn, then the program is definitely worth taking part in. My experience has been truly life-changing and would encourage all to take part in such programs.



