

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:	Howard Mwaala
Gender:	Male
Age:	34 Years
Degree:	Masters of Engineering
Hosting university:	Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt
Sending university:	The University of Zambia
Period of exchange:	10 Days
Field of study/major:	MEng in Renewable Energy Engineering
Field of interest during exchange:	Excursions to Waste Incineration plant, Gasifiers & CHPs at Burkardt, Citrin Solar GmbH, Solar Plant at GWG, Biogas plant and all the laboratories. I enjoyed very much on the application of all the renewable energy systems and research resources at THI
Further graduation plans (e.g. PhD program):	I am looking for a full time sponsorship to do my PhD with any university offering PhD programs in Renewable Energy Engineering Related Courses. I am very much ready to start anytime there is a sponsor.

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.)	X				
I gained knowhow in field of my study	X				
The courses were helpful for my further research	X				

The agenda was well structured	X				
Organization					
The journey preparations were well organized	X				
The support during the exchange was good	X				
The post processing of the exchange was well organized	X				
The reimbursement process was satisfactory		X			
The accommodation was pleasant		X			
Local transportation was well organized	X				
I socialized with local students	X				
I recommend the exchange	X				
Others:	<p>What would you like to be changed/ be improved for the future? I would recommend increasing the excursions to different renewable energy plants, e.g. wind farms and geothermal plants were not visited. Also the meal allowance must be increase looking at the standard of living which is very high.</p> <p>Did you experience any difficulties during your exchange? Only the weather, it was very cold most of the time the temperature was in the negatives.</p>				

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 AIR Student Exchange project aim is to foster the capacities of the eight participating partner universities, thereby working together with 15 industry partners in order to include their practical know-how which help to establish a more practice-oriented academic education in the field of renewable energies.

Our 14 day international student exchange program at THI, Germany aimed at the involvement of international students in the work of faculties and institutes abroad that deal with the topics of renewable energies. We participated in dedicated courses and laboratory works. Furthermore, we took several technology excursions to Waste Incineration, Gasifiers, CHPs, Solar Thermal, Solar Power and Biogas Plants in order to gain vital insights into the processes and contents of studying abroad and to put the lessons learned and experiences into practice.

I had an opportunity of presenting my Master's thesis of renewable energy engineering research at both THI University and InES (Institute of new Energy Systems). The title of my Master's research is entitled "A full-cost analysis of future technology options for electricity generation in Zambia". The overall aim of this research is to facilitate

informed decision making regarding competing investment options in Zambia's electricity market, based on the principle of a smart energy policy.

I participated in dedicated courses including giving lectures in Wind Energy, Energy Management, Energy Storage and Renewable Energy Economics and laboratory works. I also gave a presentation about the energy situation in SADC region.

The most important and exciting insights of the 2016 AIR student exchange program were taking excursions to renewable energy plants in Germany. After visiting all these technologies I can comfortably say AIR student exchange is one grand opportunity for international students to gain vital insights into processes and put into practice the lessons learned and experiences of renewable energy technologies. Furthermore, I observed that all these technologies operate exactly the same way I learned them in class during my one year taught courses. Hence, I can simply say UNZA, School of Engineering, Renewable Energy Masters Programme is well tailored for the industry. I really enjoyed myself seeing the renewable energy technologies in practice.

