

International Student Exchange 2016 – 2019

Student Feedback Questionnaire

The purpose of this questionnaire is to evaluate the lessons learnt 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:	Taboka Lame Bakang Motlhabane
Gender:	Female
Age:	23
Degree:	B.Eng Energy Engineering. Current MEng. in Mechanical and Energy Engineering
Hosting university:	Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt <i>Institut für neue Energie-Systeme (InES)</i>
Sending university:	Botswana International University of Science and Technology
Period of exchange:	2 weeks
Field of study/major:	Energy Efficient Buildings, Cooling, Energy Management
Field of interest during exchange:	Energy Efficient Buildings and Simulations
Further graduation plans (e.g. PhD programme):	Research career, energy efficient building consult or PhD programme

Please tick (Yes) the respective box	I strongly agree	I agree	I neither agree nor disagree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Programme					
I gained insights into the practical implementation of RE in the host country (sight visits etc.)	Y				
I gained know how in field of my study	Y				
The courses were helpful for my further research		Y			
The agenda was well structured			Y		
Organisation					
The journey preparations were well organised	Y				

The support during the exchange was good	Y				
The post processing of the exchange was well organised	Y				
The reimbursement process was satisfactory	Y				
The accommodation was pleasant		Y			
Local transportation was well organised		Y			
I socialised with local students	Y				
I recommend the exchange	Y				
Other	<p>What would you suggest to be changed/improved for future exchanges? That language and cultural experiences be included in the exchange programme.</p> <p>Did you experience any difficulties during your exchange? No</p>				

Please write a brief report about your student exchange, including organisation, agenda, experience, lessons learnt, suggestions for improvement, and recommendations for other students (max. 590 words, Arial 12).

As a master student at the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), the exchange program came as a recommendation from my supervisor as a way expand my knowledge around my research area.

The planning and organization of the trip was initially initialized through the university staff at BIUST together with the AIR project team. I was roped in for the ticket bookings and when I had to do the VISA applications. No major huddles where experienced throughout my preparations leading up to my travel apart from that the embassy in Gaborone, Botswana worked only on an appointment system, so I travelled from Palapye to Gaborone only to be confronted with the disappointment of not being able to apply for the VISA. Was later able to book for an appointment which was a week before my departure date, luckily, I managed to get my VISA on time.

Upon arrival, I experienced minor huddles with getting around, no suggestions on where provided prior to travelling on where to get food or a route to the university, so I relied on Google Maps to help me get around, particularly on the Sunday I arrived.

For the exchange trip, no strict agenda had been set out prior to my arrival, however my master's supervisor and I had agreed that the main motive of the exchange be to immerse myself into learning the stimulation software, MATLAB and the CARNOT toolbox from the experts at THI, as I would be using the software's for the project on the design of an energy efficient building with solar cooling elements and no one at my home university was acquainted with CARNOT. Through the exchange I got to learn

and get through several challenges with the software's which would have taken me much longer to get through alone. I also got to see various aspects of energy efficient buildings, passive cooling strategies and other aspects of building design in direct play, which are an anomaly in Botswana, but could go a long way in reducing our cooling demand. It gave me various ideas to incorporate into my designs going forward. Similarly, I got to tour the university energy labs and see some the projects being carries out, as well as talk to some of the student researchers which was very thought-provoking.

I as well got the opportunity to visit a wind farm for the first time, which was very interesting to see as an Energy Engineer and because Botswana does not have any big, grid-tied wind turbines. Also got to see various solar installations and understood how Germany achieved its efforts to be one of the leading players in renewable energy which was very interesting.

It would have been interesting to have a THI cultural exchange element added to the trip to learn more about the region we were in. For future exchanges, I would suggest that guides to travelling from booked lodging to the university and how to get around the town be provided at least for the first day, particularly when someone was travelling alone.

Please add at least one picture showing you during your stay at the partner university (e.g. yourself together with local partners at the university/excursion – please send it also as a separate file via email).



