

Erasmus+ Mobility Program Report at Bialystok University of Technology, Poland

I am Kolawole Osuolale Kazeem, a Masters students at the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. I enrolled at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science, Bialystok University of Technology for 2024 Summer semester.

Embarking on my Erasmus+ journey to Bialystok University of Technology in Poland from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, was a thrilling adventure. The preparation phase was smooth, thanks to the comprehensive guidance from our International Relations Coordinator, who expedited the visa process and helped me with the necessary paperwork. I vividly remember the mixed feelings of excitement and nervousness as I boarded my first-ever flight to Europe. The warm reception from the university staff in Bialystok instantly put me at ease, and the transition into my new environment was facilitated by the support of my mentors and fellow students. The initial cultural shock and the harsh cold weather were challenges, but the kindness and openness of the people around me made a significant difference.

Living in the GAMMA dormitory was a pleasant experience, sharing a room with my fellow Nigerian provided a sense of familiarity and comfort. The dormitory's excellent facilities, including a well-equipped kitchen and laundry services, made daily life convenient. Academically, the semester was a blend of familiar and new subjects, which kept the learning experience engaging and enriching. Although language barriers existed with some professors, their commitment to ensuring we comprehended the material was evident through their use of visual aids and additional resources. These efforts were particularly admirable and greatly appreciated.

Despite facing initial challenges related to my race, I soon discovered the beauty of human kindness that transcends cultural and racial boundaries. Interacting with Spanish students was a highlight of my stay; their vibrant and cheerful nature made social gatherings lively and enjoyable. Bialystok, with its blend of historical architecture and modern amenities, offered a serene and conducive environment for both study and

recreation. Visiting the Branicki Palace and exploring local markets were among my favorite activities. The city's efficient public transport system made navigation easy and added to the overall positive experience. This journey has been transformative, enhancing my resilience, adaptability, and appreciation for cultural diversity. The friendships I forged, especially with the ever-joyful Spanish students, will remain cherished memories, and I wholeheartedly recommend the Erasmus+ program for its profound impact on personal and academic growth.