

10/07/2020

SUBJECT: Re-Application for Erasmus Master in Environmental Contamination and Toxicology (ECT).

Dear Coordinator,

African continent especially my home country, Nigeria is facing prevailing endemic diseases such as cholera, typhoid and diarrhea that emanated from utilization of unsafe water and poor sanitation. I believe one of the solutions to combating endemic diseases is the development of well-structured, qualitative and effective water treatment system. Thus, my career goal is to use my knowledge and expertise to combat environmental pollutions and ensure availability of efficient, safe and portable water system in my home country as well as globally which I believe ECT+ program will provide me with requisite knowledge in this area.

I have always been concerned about the rate of environmental pollutions and poor quality of water system of my country, based on this, I undergone five (5) months internship at Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency, Bauchi State where I gained hands-on experience on physical, chemical and bacteriological analysis of water samples. During the internship period, I was opportune to lead a team of over 20 members. Given the opportunity of heading the team, I organized sensitization campaign to educate the public about the harmful impacts of open defecation on the environment and health as well as effective preventive measures against water borne diseases. I also coordinated household chlorination project which involves disinfection of well-water in rural communities to ensure that the water is safe for usage. This project enable the people in those areas have access to clean water which has ultimately prevents water borne diseases. My internship at this agency has made me realize that tackling environmental pollutions requires continuous public enlightenment coupled with effective collaboration between the public and relevant agencies.

My growing passion for an efficient and clean water supply system further motivates me to take an online training on 'Portable water treatment' from Open University where I gained knowledge on the processes involved in producing clean and portable water. To fortify my understanding of clean water system, I currently volunteer at the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency where am working with the agency on physicochemical and bacteriological analysis of water samples collected from rural communities within Bauchi metropolis to ascertain the level of contaminations in the water samples and provide possible solution to any identified contaminants in the samples.

To evolve into a full round scientist, I made sure to nourish other aspects of my life through active participation in leadership and social activities. I am currently a volunteer candidate at Climate Action Group where I am leading a group of 15 members within Bauchi town on surveillance exercise to ensure schools comply with Covid-19 guidelines for the containment of the Covid-19 pandemic. Also, during my undergraduate programme, I was the chairman academic committee of the Student Chemical Society of Nigeria of my school where I organized and coordinated several tutorials in courses like organic chemistry, natural product chemistry and analytical chemistry for over 100 students which resulted in improvement in their academic performance and grades. The frequent interaction with students and engaging in social activities have enabled me develop excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

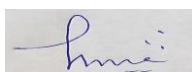
My previous academic studies with courses like Environmental Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Ecology, Cell Biology and Microbiology together with my online training on Portable Water Treatment and the internship at Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency has provided me with the fundamental knowledge on water purification and environmental issues. Thus, this knowledge and experience have made me an appropriate candidate for the ECT+ programme and I am confident that I will excel in the programme if selected.

I believe ECT+ programme is the best choice towards actualizing my academic and professional goals because its career path on water quality and wastewater contaminants perfectly match my career interests. I choose ECT+ because it offers me unique opportunity to learn from inspired international Professors and scholars who bring innovative ideas towards tackling environmental challenges and effective environmental protection management. The programme will also allow me become part of the next generation scientists and managers who would develop deeper understanding of environmental issues and help in tackling environmental challenges derived from chemical pollutions and other related environmental contaminants. My focus during the programme will be on studying disinfection by-products and other contaminants in water to solve human health and environmental issues which I believe is an integral step towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal Six i.e. SDG6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)

Upon completion of the programme, I will immediately enroll for my PhD studies to acquire more research experience and expertise in water quality analysis in order to make significant contribution towards sustainable sanitation and quality drinking water supply system. Following my PhD studies I will then return to my home country to take up a career in any water sectors like Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency or Nigeria's Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources where I would be opportune to work with other like-mind individuals to drive innovations in the field of water quality analysis and efficient water management to attain Sustainable Development Goal six in my home country. My long-term career goal is to become a Professor with expertise in water quality analysis that has numerous research publications in high impact international journals. During this period, I will become a valuable asset in development of policies and decision making that will improve the water sector of my home country

I believe Joining ECT+ will be a life changing opportunity and a catalyst towards actualizing my career dreams. I hope the selection board shares my aspiration and favourably consider my application as I eagerly anticipate being part of the next cohort.

Kind regards



Yakubu Hamza