

**Feedback Report on Geo Training Summer School, Frankfurt, Germany, 01-29  
September 2018**

By  
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I attended a Geo training summer school at Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany on the above-mentioned dates. The training aimed at preparing university students and junior researchers (DAAD scholarship holders) for the tasks of teaching and research. The course focused on the use of geospatial technologies and analysis methods in research, research project development and higher education teaching skills.

The training was beneficial to me both as a student and lecturer because the knowledge gained can help me in my research and also in my teaching. The first module covered analysis and visualisation of geographical data in R Statistical package and QuantumGIS(QGIS). This module was useful to me because I got to understand and appreciate R and QGIS as open source software packages and their capability of geostatistical analysis for land cover/land use change analysis. In this module, for practical exercises, we used data from a research that was carried out in a volcanic island of Fogo, in Carbo Verde by a research team comprising of researchers from Germany and Carbo Verde Universities. At the end of the module, students were divided into groups to work on a specific spatial question and produced a group "Story Map" presentation in google docs, that was presentated at DAAD Headquarters in Bonn on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

The second module was about academic communication; in this module, we were introduced to strategies of professional writing and E-resources that can aid my research activities. This module ended with a writing assignment where you have to summarise an article by practising all the writing rules we were introduced to.

The third module was about professional and career support. In this module we were introduced to diferent opportunities of studies, research, supervision and funding in the German universities. We had a presentation by a representative from Goethe Research Academy for Early Career Researcher ([http://www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/54287285/100\\_landingpag](http://www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/54287285/100_landingpag)) to explain research opportunies available.

We also had a presentation by Professor Tesfaye Tafesse from Addis Ababa University, Center for African and Oriental studies in his capacity as an alumni of the German Academic Exchange Programme(DAAD). He explained most of the basic terminology used in PhD programmes and gave us guidance and advices on what to expect as postgraduate students.

The fourth module was on Higher Education Didactics; in this module we learnt the different teaching methods, the theories around each teaching method and benefits of eportfolios and reflection in teaching, learning and assessment. We also learnt the importance of alignment and instructional design in formulation of learning outcomes. At the end of the module, we were divided into groups where we have to design and present a poster of an advert for a short summer school of our choice to be held in one of our home university. This module was a refresher since I just finished my Postgraduate Certificate in High Education teaching, an inhouse programme at NUST, I came to appreciate the programme and realise that it's curriculum is in line with best teaching practices, internationally.

Apart from classroom activities, there were compulsory and voluntary excursions planned in the course. We were taken to different places where our tour guide (s) explained to us the historical buildings, places and events that took place at certain places. My personal favourite excursions were to the German Federal Cartography and Geodesy building, the Rhein River, Rund um den Niederwald and DAAD Headquarters in Bonn. We had opportunies to enjoy and appreciate the German culture and food. The participants in the course were from different continents and countries, which made it rich in cultural diversity.

Overall the summer school contributed enormously to my understanding of research and presented me with varoius options to access information, improve my writing and teaching skills and opportunities to grow as a researcher. I met people from different countries who are at different stages of their studies and through discussions, I got some insights and encouragement in the process of my PhD research and I can say that I am now more focused than before.

The course ended with certification of participants for successful participation in the summer school training.

Course materials are available on:

<http://www.geotraining.geodu.org/doku.php?id=en:courses:description>