







Please insert here at least one **PHOTO** of your traineeship stay abroad! Preferred motives are photos of your accommodation, of your work place, of being at work. Attention! Due to legal considerations we kindly ask you to send us only photos that have been taken by yourself!

STUDENT DETAILS

University department / faculty: **Theologische Hochschule Friedensau / Christian Social Sciences**

Field of study: **International Social Sciences**

Home university: **Theologische Hochschule Friedensau**

Nationality: **Benin**

Duration of traineeship (from ...to...): **6.1.2020 to 5.3.2020**

TRAINEESHIP INSTITUTION

Country: **Ireland**

Name of traineeship institution: **Trócaire**

Web page: **<https://www.trocaire.org/>**

Address: **Trócaire Head Office, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland, W23 NX63**

Contact person: **Rashmi Sharma**

Telephone / E-Mail: **+353 1 6293333 / rashmi.sharma@trocaire.org**

EXPERIENCE REPORT (approx. 3 pages + more photos if applicable)

1) Traineeship institution

Please give a brief description of your host traineeship institution.

Trócaire was established by the Bishops of Ireland in 1973 as a way for Irish people to act in solidarity with those in greatest need. The work of Trócaire is grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, which stresses the dignity of each person and their inalienable human rights, along with their responsibilities, regardless of culture, ethnicity, gender or religion.

2) Searching for a traineeship

How did you find your traineeship? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

I got to know Trócaire through the head of my department at my university. I then decided to apply at Trócaire for my internship

3) Preparation

How did you prepare for your traineeship in terms of language, intercultural, professional and organisational aspects? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

When Trócaire gave me a positive feedback on my traineeship application, I looked for an accommodation. Accommodation is difficult to find and expensive in Ireland. When I got an accommodation, I started the my visa application process. I figured out that I needed to extend my resident permit before being eligible for my Irish visa. So, I applied for an extension of my resident permit. After I received my new resident permit, I booked my flight ticket and applied for the Irish visa.

4) Accommodation

How did you find your accommodation? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

I found my accommodation by asking people around. The average cost of accommodation online was 750 Euros per month and those accommodations were 1,5 hours away from the office! So I got the idea to ask people from Maynooth if someone would be willing to rent a room in their home for 550 Euros. I was lucky to get one close to Trócaire.

5) Traineeship

Please describe the tasks and / or the projects carried out during your traineeship. In which way were you mentored and integrated? How were the working conditions? Did you have especially positive or negative experiences?

During my traineeship, I worked under the supervision of the Technology in programmes advisor, Rashmi Sharma. The technology in programmes advisor oversees and supports the use of technology for efficiency and impact in all the countries where Trócaire works. My task was to write a case study on the impact of technology in an accountability project in Rwanda.

In order to achieve this, I conducted a research among the stakeholders of the project. My research was divided in three phases. In the first phase, I did a review of the relevant project documents in order to understand the background of the project and the implementation process with the local partners. During the second phase of the research, I designed an interview guide to support the interviews I conducted later with: four farmers (one woman and three men), three local partners staff and three Trócaire officers. The interviews were conducted via Skype calls, Whatsapp calls and Whatsapp text messages. The third phase consisted of analysing the data and writing the case study. After submitting the case study, I prepared a presentation to share the findings with the staff of Trócaire.

During my traineeship at Trócaire, I was encouraged to work independently. This has helped to be aware of what I was able to do and what I need to improve. Everyone made sure I had everything I need to work, and I was expected to attend all the staff meetings. Trócaire officers were very friendly and would not hesitate to approach me, to get to know who I am. I met the CEO a couple of times, and she was very nice to me. For me, this was the most important aspect because I did not feel like a stranger and I was happy to do my best to contribute to the work of Trócaire.

6) Acquired qualifications

Which qualifications and skills could you acquire or improve during your traineeship?

I learned:

- To work independently and organize my work. My supervisor gave me all the project documents I needed to read in order to understand the background of the project. She also introduced me to the Trócaire Rwanda officers and made sure I have everything I need to conduct the study. I was then left to organize my work and plan myself to achieve my task.
- To adapt to the challenges of research. The interviews were done through phone calls. The first challenge was to reach the lead farmers living in rural areas where the network is poor. I had to wait many days in order to reach them. Secondly, the lead farmers are fluent in Kinyarwanda and their knowledge of French or English is very low. Because of these two facts, I was able to conduct an oral interview with only one lead farmer. The three other interviews with lead farmers went through text messages. I had to adapt very quickly and approach this situation with care.
- To work with a team in a shared office. I was sharing the office of the four PIL advisors. Through this experience I understood that sharing office brings coworkers closer because being in the same office allowed us to share personal stories and experiences. It creates a relationship that goes beyond a traditional formal colleagues' relationship. It makes the work environment more pleasant. In addition, I learned to focus despite the distractions a shared office can bring.

7) Country-specific features

Are there any specific traineeship regulations in the target country that affected you as an Erasmus trainee (e.g. France: housing allowance, convention de stage? If yes, which ones? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

No

8) Visa, residence and work permit (only for international students)

Which prearrangements had to be made in terms of visa, residence and work permit? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

Nothing special. I just applied for a traineeship student visa in Ireland, making sure I had a valid resident permit (issued here in Germany) with a validity date that goes at least 3 months beyond my return date.

9) Other

Is there anything else you want to let other students know?

No

10) Conclusion

What is the conclusion drawn after your traineeship experience abroad?

Going in a completely new environment for an internship is a very rich experience because I have gone through a multidimensional learning process. It has given me the opportunity to learn new ways of working, I have got some experience in a very professional environment, I have met many people, I have got some knowledge about the Irish culture. Doing all this simultaneously and in a short period of time (2 months) was great, I would gladly do it again! Thank you for supporting me in this process

Please send this report by email to julia.schubert@ovgu.de!
Acceptable file formats: [.doc], [.docx], [.rtf], [.odt].