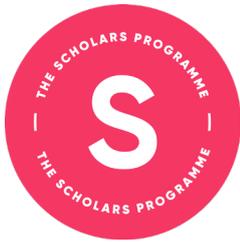


The Brilliant Club Case Study



Tutor Name:
Chukwuma Ogbonnaya

PhD Thesis Title:
Integrated PV-Fuel cell system
for distributed application:
design, development and
optimisation

PhD University:
The University of Manchester

Tutor since: January, 2018

Brilliant Club Programme:
The Scholars Programme



Which schools have you taught at?

The Co-operative Academy of Manchester, St Anne's Academy, Flixton Girls School, Burnage Academy for Boys, Denton Community College, Royton and Crompton School, The Hathershaw College, St Patrick's RC High School and Arts College, Mossley Hollins High School, Co-op Academy Swinton.

What is your Scholars Programme course title?

Combating climate change through renewable energy.

What made you want to apply to be a Scholars Programme tutor?

I needed teaching experience in the UK. Secondly, I am passionate about supporting young people to learn. Again, I needed a flexible programme that can allow me to earn an allowance without losing focus on my PhD research. The Scholars Programme met all my needs.

What has been the most rewarding moment of your Scholars Programme placement so far?

The most rewarding moment is learning how to communicate complex ideas concisely and suitable for children. Indeed, I learn with my pupils and they often ask fundamental questions that have benefited my PhD research. For instance, a pupil once asked me a question that inspired me to create a conference paper, which was accepted and presented.

Tell me about being a Scholars Programme tutor. How has it helped in your development as a research student?

I have used The Scholars Programme as evidence for my Advanced Higher Education Academy fellowship applications. One of the secrets I discovered that increased my efficiency beyond what it would have been is using the travel times between schools and during launch trip to proofread my manuscript, develop models or action plans. This helped me publish five articles in Elsevier journals and produced two conference papers within the first two years of my PhD.



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What have you gained from being part of the Scholars Programme community of researchers?

One of the benefits is having the opportunity to interact with other PhD and post-doc researchers; and take time off to do something different from research as well as travel out of your immediate environment. This has a refreshing effect on the mind space.



How do you think you have made a difference to pupils as a Scholars Programme tutor?

Many pupils have stated that the programme has helped them develop confidence to think of applying to highly-selective University. I have also seen how pupils improved in critical skills during the programme.

Do you have any advice for someone looking to apply to work as a Scholars Programme tutor?

My advice is that it is suitable for all PhD and post-doc researchers. Currently, many UK Universities are making teaching experience an essential component of PhD programme. The Scholars Programme helps one to manage the entire teaching and learning activities like the University teaching. On a scale of 1 to 10, I will rate my recommendation 9 for all PhD and post-doc researchers.

THE SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

To find out more about how you could become a Scholars Programme tutor, please visit our website at www.thebrilliantclub.org