

1163-AE-1367 **Sofiat Olaosebikan*** (sofiat.olaosebikan@glasgow.ac.uk). *A story on how my journey through AIMS led me to becoming an academic in the UK.*

Growing up, I was passionate about mathematical problem solving. This led to my decision to study Mathematics for my first degree at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Along the line, I also realised my passion for computing because my father bought me my first computer at age 15. Throughout my undergraduate studies, I thought hard about how to combine my maths and computing skills for solving real-world problems. I searched the internet, I was overwhelmed, and worst of all, I had no one to point me in the right direction.

In 2015, I received a Masters scholarship to study at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS). During my time at AIMS, I was introduced to Python programming, graph theory, algorithms, and other interesting subjects in mathematical sciences. I felt empowered!

In this talk, I am going to reflect on my experience as a student at AIMS. To be specific, I will focus on how learning from the visiting international academics helped me identify my mathematical strengths, and how working with them gave me the confidence to further develop my passion for research. I will also briefly talk about the Programming Workshop for Scientists in Africa (PWSAfrica) – an initiative I started in 2018 to empower young scientists with computer programming skills. (Received September 15, 2020)