

**Placement report; Research placement at the Coordination office of the Austrian Development Agency in Kampala, Uganda; 1 June – 31 July 2022**  
**Iris Ratzenberger**

During my MSc in Climate Change, Development and Policy, I had the possibility to do a research placement at the coordination office of the Austrian Development Agency in Kampala, Uganda. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) is the operational unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation. On behalf of the government, it plans, finances and supports development programmes and projects in the countries of Africa, Asia, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. The headquarter is in Vienna, and it is owned by the Republic of Austria and represented by the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs.

I decided to apply for this research placement because it was suitable for my dissertation topic, and I wanted to live in a sub-Saharan country for some time. This placement allowed me to gain insights into the work of a bilateral development agency and the development work in Uganda in general. During my placement, I mainly helped to write a semi-annual report. Still, I also had the chance to participate in several events, such as an event of the FAO for malnutrition and starvation in Karamoja or the presentation of the semi-annual report of the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda. These unique experiences will definitely help me in my future working life. Regarding my dissertation, the coordination was highly supportive. They helped me to allocate suitable interview partners and gave me the time to conduct these interviews.

Although the living costs in Uganda are lower compared to the UK, they are still higher than expected. You need to pay for your rent, food and transportation on-site. But you also need to apply for a visa and book a flight - flights to sub-Saharan Africa are often not cheap. Keeping all that in mind, I also had to pay my rent in the UK since my contract was for one year. Furthermore, almost all research placements are unpaid, including mine. In other words, without the generous support of the Turing Scheme, I could not have done this research placement. The Turing Scheme scholarship helped me cover all my costs in Uganda and made this placement possible.

I am sure this research placement shaped my future life. I gained not only valuable working experience but also life experience. Working together in a diverse team was sometimes challenging but most of the time fun. Now I know that development cooperation is the domain where I want to work in. Furthermore, living in a Sub-Saharan African country changed my perspective on many levels.

Although doing a research placement requires a lot of administration, I did not regret it for a second. It was a unique life experience that, I am sure, will shape my future pathway in life. I

am grateful that there is such a great programme like the Turning Scheme that make these experience for young people like me possible.



Presentation of the semi-annual Programme Review of the Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management Programme at the Ministry of Water and Environment

Visiting the project partner  
“Global Water Partnership”



Visit of the “Light for the World” inclusion team in the cooperation office