Bolanle BABALOLA

Home Country: Nigeria

Degree: PhD in Chemistry

Expertise: Environmental Science

Research Focus: Treatment of Wastewater

Host University: Lancaster University, United Kingdom

Fellowship Awarded: 2015

Bolanle Babalola was born and spent most of her childhood in Ondo, Ondo State, Nigeria. She excelled at secondary school and moved to the Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti to obtain a National Diploma in Science Technology, which she achieved as the best graduating student in her department.

Bolanle attended the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State, where she gained a bachelor's degree, followed in 2011 by a master's, both in Industrial Chemistry. During her studies she won several awards for excellent performance. Bolanle has been an Assistant Lecturer at the Federal University Oye Ekiti since 2012.

Bolanle's MSc thesis was entitled "Biosorption of Lead and Nickel from Aqueous Solutions by Flame of the Forest (*Delonix regia*) Pods". The PhD research continues her studies into the use of this flowering plant in biofilters for the management and treatment of wastewater. She is investigating how its pods, leaves and seeds - and composites of these materials with multi-walled carbon nanotubes - can be used for adsorption of various aqueous pollutants. Poisoning and contamination of water resulting from the poor management of waste has caused several problems in Nigeria, including civil unrest. Sustainable low-cost solutions to mitigating contamination should benefit countries around the world.

After completion of her PhD studies, Bolanle plans to return to a full time academic career and become involved with postdoctoral research in the areas of Chemistry and Environmental Science. She hopes to become a renowned professor in her field and to contribute to joint efforts with the Nigeria Institute of Environmental Practitioners to work with the government and stakeholders in the industrial sector on safe environmental practices.