

## **IREBS Foundation – Testimonial: AJAYI Oluwaseun Damilola**

***Your name, country of origin and current role or academic/professional background in real estate***

**Answer:**

Name: AJAYI Oluwaseun Damilola

Country of Origin: Nigeria

Current Role: Lecturer, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria/Doctoral Researcher, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

***What is/was the purpose for which you applied for funding.***

**Answer:**

- International conference by the African Real Estate Society (2018).
- Doctoral Completion Scholarship (2021)

***Reason(s) why you were unable to meet those financial needs yourself (Please give some detail so our donors can appreciate your situation better and can confirm that their contributions are necessary)***

**Answer:**

**International Conference (AfRES, 2018)**

The AfRES annual conferences provides robust feedbacks necessary to boosting the chances of publishing in top tier real estate journals; one of my papers (ongoing work) was accepted for presentation. I was studying in South Africa but had no funding to travel to Nigeria for the conference. The IREBS Foundation for African Real Estate Research made it possible. It was also this conference that paved the way to a prestigious scholarship – DAAD where I was also accepted as a Visiting Scholar at the IREBS, University of Regensburg, Germany.

**Doctoral Completion Scholarship/Grant (IREBS AfRER, 2021)**

My funding at the final stages of my Doctoral programme had depleted; there was the need to access journal articles, databank, data (for internet use) and pay for my rental obligations in South Africa. With the scholarship, I have been able to access these resources; already, three (3) papers are being prepared as manuscripts for top real estate journals. I have also been able to pay for my rental obligations.

***How IREBS Foundation funding has helped you achieve your goal (Please give some detail how our support has impacted your studies/research/academic network/...)***

**Answer:**

- i. The 2018 (IREBS AfRER) AfRES research/conference funding paved the way for the prestigious DAAD scholarship to Germany. Future research collaborations were established; and a clear understanding of the direction of my doctoral project was secured.
- ii. The 2021 IREBS AfRER Doctoral Completion Scholarship provided the opportunity to access relevant journal articles, databank and a psychological stability necessary for the success of the doctoral programme completion.

***How this is or will not only benefit you but is or will contribute to the improvement and professionalization of real estate education or business in your country/your (future) place of work.***

***Answer:***

The funding over the years from the IREBS AfRER has helped to establish a wide international network of friends and colleagues; apart from this, I have been exposed to cutting-edge dynamics of real estate education (teaching pedagogies and research). Professionally, the insights from the doctoral project will assist the regime of the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) in terms of enhanced decision making.