

## Remote research communities



### Mr Adrian Solomon

researching “A Knowledge Based Decision Support System for Resilient and Green Freight Transportation”

#### At SEERC CITY College Thessaloniki

Being a student of the University of Sheffield (TUoS) at its International Faculty (CITY College) in Thessaloniki, Greece and part the framework of the South East European Research Centre (SEERC), has proven to exceed even the most demanding expectations that a prospective PhD student may have from the highly reputed University of Sheffield.

As a highly assertive, curious and future oriented person, SEERC has definitely proven to be a successful choice for me for a wide variety of reasons.

CITY College and SEERC have a great impact in the wider South East European (SEE) region. This is my target research area, which creates numerous challenges.

I was given the opportunity to directly engage in an inter-disciplinary and multicultural academic community. I experience a high class academic experience though direct interaction with academics and their work, joint publications with academics, participation in academic boards and through setting the basis for future class involvement.

SEERC has created the opportunity for me to participate in various research projects with countries from SEE and the European Union and to gain significant experience for my PhD and valuable employability skills.

I have also received substantial support in terms of participating in relevant conferences and events. Furthermore, by taking advantage of the joint supervision scheme and of the constant and close cooperation between CITY College, SEERC and the Faculty of Social Sciences at TUoS, I also became involved in research projects with TUoS which have global impact involving countries such as USA, UK and India.

The PhD student community at SEERC consists of high calibre and award winning people that form a strong and highly capable group with inspiring and scientific ideas from various domains. SEERC has a high percentage of its PhD students (and post-docs) that come from different scholarship schemes and under several key European Union funded programmes that aim to build next generation leaders in key research domains.

Personally, I think this student community is an essential resource for me and has enabled me to gain valuable ideas, knowledge and practices that have definitely helped my research and my employability skills.

Overall, taking into account the excellent cooperation and integration of SEERC within the faculties and departments of TUoS, studying at SEERC has significantly enhanced my profile (allowing me to make an impact and improve my employability skills) this enables me to take my learning from a world class educational system and apply it in the region of my research focus – SEE.

My expectations from SEERC at the beginning of my PhD were extremely high and they have definitely been exceeded, making me wonder about the next opportunities that can be pursued. This is why, my advice to prospective students of TUoS that intend to choose SEERC are:

Aim high, work hard and take advantage of all the developmental opportunities offered to you.

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