

Academic migration and opportunity: The case of Malawian students in Norway

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ABSTRACT

With globalization, there is now an increase in the trend of Malawian immigration to Norway which is mostly being tied to educational purposes with many Malawians having been enrolled and awarded graduate degrees from the country's top universities. Thanks to the scholarships such as the Erasmus+, 'Malawi, South Africa and Norway mobility programme in Sustainable Community Development and Eco-Social Change and Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation, young academics are now able to travel from Malawi and stay in Norway as master students. While some have returned back to Malawi after graduation, others have stayed in Norway due to marriage or work purposes and others have pursued other master graduate programs and doctoral studies as a way to develop more competencies. Despite pursuing programmes in different academic fields, yet they share common experiences of their mobility to Norway. Gaining expertise that is unavailable in Malawi both in theory and practice was singled out as the most important benefit of their mobility as well as being exposed to problems or issues that other researchers around the globe are working on through conferences.

Interestingly, some with their graduate studies have travelled to other countries in the world like South Africa, Germany, Madagascar, Namibia and Slovenia before and after going to Norway. Others have also found supervisors for their PhD studies in some of those countries even when they returned back to Malawi which shows how globalisation has made their education aspirations possible and how their quest for higher education is taking them to many places in the world. This research drawn from personal testimonies, unstructured interviews and observations from social media platforms seeks to inform the mobility of young Malawians in a globalized world in pursuit of their education and career aspirations with the focus on Norway.

CV

Matias Pasulani is a PhD student at the Center of Migration, Education and Cultural Studies at the University of Oldenburg in Germany and was awarded an MA by the same university in 2024 in the Erasmus Mundus programme of Migration and Intercultural Relations. He also has a Bachelor's degree in Education (Social Studies) awarded by the University of Malawi in 2020. His research interests include Malawian migration, immigration to less developed countries, criminal migration and human smuggling/trafficking syndicates.