



Oyinkansola AJAYI

Home Country
Nigeria

Degree
PhD in Petroleum Engineering

Expertise
Gamma Ray Spectroscopy

Research Focus
Formation Evaluation

Host University
University of Texas at Austin,
United States

Fellowship Awarded
2012

Oyinkansola Ajayi was born in Lagos State, Nigeria, where she was educated from primary school up to her first university degree. Her love for education was influenced by her mother; who as a teacher always encouraged her daughter to do her best academically and in every area of life.

Oyinkansola graduated from secondary school with an award as the best science student from the West African Examinations Council. She attended the University of Lagos with the support of a scholarship from an oil company in Nigeria, and gained a first class BSc honors degree in Chemical Engineering. She is a student member of several professional organizations, including the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts (SPWLA).

Her PhD research focuses on formation evaluation and determination of the lithology of the subsurface—particularly the accurate estimation of properties of rocks that contain oil and gas. Oyinkansola has expertise in fast numerical nuclear gamma ray spectroscopy methods in the interpretation of subsurface lithology. A rock's natural content of gamma-ray producing elements—and its reaction to induced gamma rays—can indicate several important properties, such as oil content and porosity. Measurements of gamma rays are commonly made in a borehole during and/or after drilling a well. These measurements require interpretation to derive the most probable rock properties, knowledge of which helps optimize oil and gas production.

After completing her PhD, Oyinkansola plans to return to the University of Lagos as a teacher. She hopes to encourage more Nigerian women to pursue careers in science and engineering.