Anna Ibru

IBRU.A@NORTHEASTERN.EDU | BOSTON, MA | CV

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Researcher trained in architecture and public policy, currently a doctoral candidate (ABD) at Northeastern University. Work focuses on built heritage, heritage policy and governance, and climate-responsive design, with regional depth in West Africa and comparative work on Southeast Asia.

KEY STRENGTHS

Comparative policy analysis · archival research · semi-structured interviews and focus groups · thematic coding · speculative design and 3D visualization · knowledge products for non-specialist audiences · Rhinoceros

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- "Scar or School?: A Nigerian Perspective on Preservation of British Colonial-Era Bungalows." by Anna Ibru (London Heritages 2025-Greenwich Conference, June 2025) Published in Proceedings
- "Reclaiming Tropical Design Intelligence: Climate-Responsive Lessons from Nigerian (British) Colonial Bungalows for Contemporary Adaptive Reuse." by Anna Ibru (9th iNTA Conference 2025, December 2025) Pending Print
- "From Colonial Past to Urban Future: Community Visions for Heritage in Lagos, Nigeria" by Anna Ibru (Heritage(s) 2026 – Istanbul Conference, July 2026) Pending Print

EDUCATION

Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA
Doctoral Candidate in Interdisciplinary Design and Media (ABD) | 2022-present
Concentration: History; Policy; Design/Preservation; and Spatial Storytelling | GPA: 4.00

Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA
Master of Public Policy | 2020-2022
Concentration: Sustainability and Climate Change Policy | GPA: 3.962

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA
Bachelor of Architecture, with a Minor in the History of Architecture & Design | May 2020 | Cum Laude | GPA: 3.56

Goethe Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
Elementary German | December 2014

LANGUAGES

English: Native

Italian: A1-A2, actively developing

German: Elementary

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant
Northeastern University | July 2023-Present

Support faculty across multiple courses (ARCH 1310, MUSC 1001, MUSC 2101) through comprehensive teaching and administrative responsibilities:

- Lead weekly recitations for Buildings and Cities course and coordinate communications between professor and teaching team
- Provide individualized guidance and mentorship to students navigating academic challenges and course expectations
- Grade quizzes, exams, discussion posts, and project responses while providing constructive feedback
- Conduct weekly meetings with faculty to review course progress

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Overhauling the external political efficacy construct: What does "government responsiveness" actually mean to people?" by Katherine Haenschen, Anna Zhang, Anna Ibru & Kevin Drakulich (Presented at the Annual Meeting of the MPSA in Chicago, IL, April 2024)
- "Decoloniality and healing: confronting inter-generational trauma/ideologies through architectural preservation and education." by Anna Ibru. (Cumulus Antwerp Conference, April 2023)

REPORTS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

- The Governance Lab Collective Intelligence Case Studies on Youth Democracy: Creamos, Nuortenbudjetti, and Forum Jove BCN (December, 2022)
- Learnings on the Importance of Youth Engagement - How Governments are Engaging Young People in Public Problem Solving, by Anna Ibru and Dane Gambrell (December, 2022)
- Expanding and Strengthening Engagement on Decide Madrid: A Data-Driven Evaluation by Beth Simone Noveck, Dane Gambrell, Valeria Gomez Palacios, and Anna Ibru (March 2022)
- MASTER'S CAPSTONE: Toolkit: "People's Guide to Preserving 'Undervalued' Sites of Historical Significance by Nicole Howard, Anna Ibru, Catrina Schick, and Sarah Sharpe (Spring 2022)

EARLIER ACADEMIC WORK

- UNDERGRADUATE CAPSTONE: "An Analysis Examining How the British Colonial Bungalow and the Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie Style Have Contributed Towards National Identity." by Anna Ibru (Spring 2020)
- INTERVIEW PUBLICATION: "Exploring National Identity By Design." (A+ Magazine, 2020; ReView Magazine: Spring 2021)

Graduate Research Assistant

Northeastern University | May 2025-August 2025

Contributed to interdisciplinary research projects addressing climate change and environmental justice:

- Supported "A Multi-Dimensional Approach to Carbon and Environmental Impacts of Buildings in Vulnerable Communities" research initiative
- Assisted with "Cool and Carbon-Free Africa: Novel Building Dataset to Address the Impact of Climate Change" project

Graduate Research Assistant

Northeastern University | Sep 2023-Dec 2023

Assisted Northeastern faculty with conducting qualitative research (focus groups and interviews) and analyzing this data for a research project aimed at overhauling the survey construct on external political efficacy (EE).

Senior Research Assistant

Northeastern University | July 2022-July 2023

Assisted Northeastern faculty on research-related tasks including developing an annotated bibliography, analyzing existing research recommendations to create a database of relevant information, and scheduling research interviews.

Social Impact Consultant

The Burnes Center for Social Change | January 2022-June 2022

This role involved developing case studies on youth engagement initiatives in countries across the world, to highlight precedents for other countries and institutions that would like to establish similar initiatives and foster youth democracy.

Research Assistant

Northeastern University | October 2020-January 2022

This role involved working with a group of interdisciplinary faculty, on a design-based Wearable Art project, by conducting research and prototyping.

Teaching Assistant

Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design | August 2017 -December 2019

Assisted faculty in areas such as teaching, grading, class set up, student mentoring, and test review sessions while maintaining good class conduct.

- History of Architecture III ARCH 4433 (Fall 2019)
- Design Thinking II-ARCH 1222 (Summer 2019)
- Fundamental Design Skills-ARCH 1015 (Summer 2019)
- Fundamental Design Methodology- ARCH 1025 (Summer 2019)
- Environmental Technology I-ARCH 2132 (Fall 2017 & 2018)
- Summer Design Camp (Summer 2017 & 2018)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference Student Diversity Fellowship (2021)
- Public Policy Scholarship (2020-2022)
- First Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design Student Fellow-Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy Conference (2019).
- Sid Frier Scholarship (2017,2018 & 2019)
- Edmondo Vitali Scholarship (2018)
- Maurice Jennings International Experience Endowed Scholarship (2018)
- PB2 Honors College International Experience Endowed Scholarship (2018)
- University of Arkansas Honors College Study Abroad Grant (2018)
- Wittenberg Delony & Davidson Scholarship (2016)
- University Academic Scholarship (2016)

AWARDS

- CAMD Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Dissemination Grant (2025, 2026)
- John G. Williams Joy of Architecture Medal (Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design, 2020)- For graduating senior exhibiting devotion, positive work ethic, and promise of professional success.
- Selected by former University of Arkansas Chancellor, Joseph Steinmetz, as one of 14 Honors students across the university, to take his leadership course: FLAGSHIP U! (Spring 2017).
- Winner of the Post-Advanced Division in the University of Arkansas English Language & Culture Speech Contest (2015 Fulbright Language Festival at the University of Arkansas)

Mentor

Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design | Fall 2019

Provided individualized advising and transition support for 11 first-year Honors Program students adjusting to university life. Monitored student engagement and wellbeing, took attendance during lectures, and assisted with grading. Served as a consistent, accessible resource for personal and academic concerns.

EARLIER UNIVERSITY ROLES

ITS Customer Experience Technician (CXT)

Northeastern University | Sep 2020 - June 2021 | CXT Pro: June 2021 - Dec 2021 | CXT Lead: Dec 2021 - Sep 2022

This position entailed working with Information Technology Services (ITS), to address tech-related issues for members across the University's campuses. It also involved assisting with onboarding for incoming CXT employees.

Plot Center Technician

Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design | Nov 2018 - May 2020

Assisted the Plot Center manager by ensuring that student and faculty IT issues regarding printing, plotting, and software were resolved.

Addetta Alla Biblioteca, Livello 3

University of Arkansas Rome Center | March-April 2019

Reorganized and maintained the library at the University of Arkansas Rome Center, providing direct assistance to students and faculty. Developed familiarity with the Rome campus environment, student community, and the academic and cultural dynamics of living and studying in Rome.

Media Center Assistant

Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design (January 2018 - December 2018)

Assisted students and faculty that used the research resources at the Media Center, organized and maintained the office, and was responsible for converting, editing/uploading resources to databases.

Exhibition Assistant (Baroque Topologies)

Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design | October 2018 - December 2018

Worked with the Exhibitions team to set up and maintain the “Baroque Topologies” Exhibition by University of Pennsylvania Professor, Andrew Saunders.

STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

- Japanese Gardens and Landscapes (May Intercession 2019)
- University of Arkansas Rome Program (Spring 2019)
- Documentary Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage, "Buen Camino" (May Intercession 2018)

Residential Desk Assistant (RDA)

University of Arkansas Housing | August 2017 - December 2018
Supported a safe, inclusive, and supportive living and learning environment for University Housing residents. Served as a first point of contact for student concerns, providing customer service, administrative support, and safety monitoring. Responded to residential incidents and escalated issues to appropriate staff as needed.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS / EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Member of CAMD PhD Student Committee

Northeastern University College of Arts and Media Design (CAMD) | Jan 2024-Sept 2025

Working with fellow student committee members to act as an intermediary between the PhD Faculty Committee and PhD Students at the College of Arts and Media Design (CAMD).

President

Northeastern Association of Public Policy Students | Sept 2022-Sept 2023

Worked with the Scheduling Coordinator and Treasurer of this interdisciplinary Graduate Student group, to provide a forum for students to exchange ideas, and collaborate concerning professional development and policy-related subjects.

Scheduling Coordinator

Northeastern Association of Public Policy Students | June 2021-Sept 2022
Worked with the President and Treasurer of this interdisciplinary Graduate Student group, to provide a forum for students to exchange ideas, and collaborate concerning professional development and policy-related subjects.

Student Ambassador

Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design | August 2016-May 2020

Conducted personalized tours for prospective students, families, and guest lecturers at the Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design, tailoring routes and information to each visitor's interests and needs. Supported the planning and execution of school events, serving as a direct representative of the school's mission and community.

Volunteer

University of Arkansas Rome Center | April 2019
Supported the Rome Center's 30th-anniversary celebrations through event coordination and logistics assistance. Led the establishment of the Center's first official social media account, expanding community engagement and communication with prospective and current students.

President

Alpha Eta Chapter, Tau Sigma Delta | June 2018-June 2019
Honor Society for Architecture and the Allied Arts.

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