

Maysa Saeidi, MBA International Business | United Nations Development Programme for Iraq, Jordan

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Maysa Saeidi graduated with an MBA in International Business from the University of Birmingham in 2010. She is currently employed as the Assistant Officer to the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) for Iraq in Amman, Jordan where she works with the global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.



My career

Before my MBA, I was working for the national non-governmental organisation (NGO). After graduation, I moved forward to work in the UN. Working in developing countries gives us all a new perspective on our own lives and offers us new ideas for the future. The MBA is a truly transformational experience and it seeks to sharpen the student's management skills for an ever more competitive world. It is gaining these skills that secured my current role.

Why Birmingham Business School?

The University and Birmingham Business School have very good reputations. A close friend of mine also studied at the University of Birmingham in 2005 and had recommended it. I have many foreign colleagues in the UN; as the University has such a diverse student body, my exposure to different cultures and backgrounds have enabled me to deal with and understand them perfectly. Students who attended less diverse institutions would not be able to have the same skills or knowledge.

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Challenges

Developing new skills and performing to the standards that are set by an institute of higher education were challenging. We were taught to motivate each other when doing group work, to maintain effective communications within the working group, with other groups and the larger community. These skills were transferable to the working world so have particular value.

The Birmingham experience

My favourite memories have to be the regular gatherings and events! The parties, trips and study group meetings were all in a cosy atmosphere where I found a new family who cared about one another. I now find myself missing the campus, the street I lived in, the trees, my room and the whole city. I truly enjoyed the tremendous year.

I regularly regale friends and family with tales of my experiences at the University of Birmingham; the MBA gave me many options professionally, enabled me to branch out and change fields. The whole University experience, both academically and personally, gave me the confidence to realise I was capable of doing anything.

Tips and advice

When choosing modules, select those that will enhance your career; live close to campus and in an environment where you are able to mingle and integrate. Enjoy the time you have at the University, both academically and socially in a positive, cross cultural environment. The MBA will have a positive impact on your morale and upon completing the course you know that you will have accomplished a lot.

Find out more

[MBA International Business \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/taught/business/mba.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/taught/business/mba.aspx)

[The Birmingham MBA \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/business/mba/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/business/mba/index.aspx)