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MSc International Development 2007



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Who are you currently working for and what is your job title?

I am the Stand Up, Take Action Campaign Coordinator at the UN Millennium Campaign

What is the best thing about what you are doing now?

The best thing about my job right now is the opportunity to advance public awareness of the Millennium Development Goals which are a set of important development targets that world leaders committed to achieve by 2015. My work entails coordinating activities aimed at bridging the accountability gap between governments and citizens across the priority countries we work in.

How has your career developed since graduating from the University of Birmingham?

Since leaving the University of Birmingham I have been privileged to hold a series very interesting jobs including: teaching The Politics of Development at my former university; working for the Secretariat of the African Union Panel of Eminent African Personalities during the negotiation of Kenya's historic Peace Accord following the violence that erupted after the disputed Presidential Elections; volunteering with BIRD Initiative, a local NGO that promotes Business Ideas for Rural Development to provide entrepreneurial anti-poverty solutions for rural areas; a 6 month research consultancy for UNICEF Kenya; and now currently coordinating campaign activities at the UN Millennium Campaign

What was the best thing about your time as a student here?

The best thing about the International Development Department (IDD) was the wonderful global environment in which we learned and relished the freedom to add to the development discourse through our experiences as representatives of our respective countries and continents.

In what way did living and studying in Birmingham live up to your expectations?

Living and studying in Birmingham was one of the best decisions I have made. Not only did I gain a world class education but I also made wonderful friends with whom I share a network of development related experiences, knowledge, challenges and opportunities. Birmingham is a great city with a warm and welcome capacity to cater for local and international students.

What advice would you give to current students studying on your degree programme?

I would tell them to make the most of the vast knowledge of the lecturers at the department, I would tell them to attend as many public lectures in the series as possible, I would tell them to note important days in the development calendar (World Food Day, Environment Day, International Women Day, Day of the African Child) and organise activities of their own. I would tell them to initiate contact with future employers now in order to have more than a foot in the door once they graduate.

How did you grow as a person by coming to University? Did it change your life in any way?

I grew in so many ways at Birmingham but most importantly I grew in to an advocate of development. I made great friends who made up for the fact that my family was so far away, I found a great church that helped me stay close to God, I earned a degree in International Development and a knowledge that I cherish and believe others should seek and find.