

# Sundeep Johal

## BA Sociology (2010)



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

N/A- MA social work student

### Why did you originally apply to Birmingham?

The excellent reputation of the university and the BA Sociology programme; and location of the university.

### What are the main benefits of studying Sociology at Birmingham?

There are many benefits of study Sociology at Birmingham. What made this programme stand out for me was the dedication of the lecturers which helped further strengthened my passion for the subject. The knowledge and support I gained from lecturers was priceless and provided me with an ideal foundation for my chosen career: social work. This course is ideal for anyone with the desire to question the taken-for-granted aspects of society and will be sure to challenge and stimulate the mind.

### Did you find the Sociology programme at Birmingham challenging or easy?

Studying this course was one of most challenging experiences for me. However, it was one that gave me knowledge, confidence, and a raised awareness of the world. It was tough in terms of the workload and high standard expected, although, this has benefited me greatly as I have the academic knowledge and skills which continue to be valuable.

### How does the study of sociology continue to impact on your life / experiences?

The study of sociology has given me a new lens with which to view the world and a critical mind with which to understand social phenomena. Both of which continue to benefit me in most aspects of my life.

### What advice would you give to current students studying sociology?

It's important to bear in mind that when choosing modules, choose what you will enjoy and find a challenge; it's pointless doing what seems easy just to gain a good mark. I would also say make the most of the support of lecturers as they are very useful sources for information and provide tremendous guidance.

### Did you find the University or your degree helpful to you in getting your first job?

My aim was to eventually go in to social work, and in my case, this degree was of paramount importance. The Careers Centre was great with helping with helping me with my MA application.

### What are your fondest memories of the University?

The best bits were being able being able to ask questions and debate in a safe environment with like-minded people.

### How did you grow as a person by coming to University?

I did a lot of maturing whilst on the course which has influenced my life in a very positive way. Also by the support gained from lecturers I found confidence in my ability to achieve academic success.

### What did you think of the learning experience within the University?

I found all the modules had a lot to offer me and contribute to my career in social work, in particular multiculturalism, political sociology and religion and society.

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

My degree enabled me to progress on to the MA programme and gave me a solid foundation to build upon.