Katie Ramsay

BA Sociology (2007)

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

I am self-employed as a sole trader. I run an eco-friendly cleaning company called Green Clean.

Why did you originally apply to Birmingham?

I liked the campus and the course credentials

What are the main benefits of studying Sociology at Birmingham?

It is a really interesting course which offers lots of diversity and choice throughout the course.

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

It was difficult to grasp the ontological and epistemological parts of the course at the beginning but everything slipped into place in year 2. It was nice to have flexibility to undertake so much independent study but this was a challenge in itself and it was so important to learn self discipline early on.

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

I am still fascinated by sociology and my love for travel has been greatly enhanced by my sociological background. I spent one year driving through Africa and often found myself dissecting my experiences and surroundings in a sociological way.

What advice would you give to current students studying sociology?

Don't feel you have to do what everyone else does when you finish; choose your own path and one that will make you happy.

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

Not particularly - I didn't really know what to do after university. I didn't know what support was available or receive any support. I graduated into a recession that seems to still be going on so I decided to set up my own business.

What are your fondest memories of the University?

I met a lot of great people, including my fiancée (a fellow sociology student) at the University of Birmingham.

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

I learnt to stand on my own two feet and thinking independently. I grew in confidence which has enabled me to run my own business.

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

I found independent study most useful. Having to do things for yourself and work to deadlines has helped me no end.

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

I have set up my own business and I currently employ five people

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

The freedom of being self-employed and having control over a business!

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