

## Jennifer Greaves, BSc Psychology

**What are you currently doing and who are you working for? Can you give a brief description of what you did from graduation up to now?**

I currently live and work in Hong Kong. I moved to Hong Kong after graduating and worked for a graduate scheme teaching English in a local primary school for one academic year. After my contract ended I decided to stay in Hong Kong and found a job in a kindergarten. After another year I left Hong Kong and went travelling for six months, travelling from Thailand to London by land. I went back to work at the same kindergarten in Hong Kong, and since then have been training to become a group fitness instructor. I currently work at Pure Fitness in Hong Kong, teaching group classes alongside teaching English.

**Can you give a short outline of the course you studied at the University of Birmingham and how it benefited you?**

I studied Psychology at the University of Birmingham and it has benefited me in many ways. Studying developmental psychology has helped me whilst I have been working with children, and particularly as they are learning in their second language, I have been able to apply my studies in cognitive psychology. Now that I teach fitness as well, motivation is highly important and I can apply some of my studies in this area as well.

**How did you find your first year in Birmingham?**

My first year was fantastic. I met lots of new and interesting people from all walks of life and learnt lots about life, and about myself. It gave me a huge sense of independence and helped me grow as an individual. I had many opportunities, and joined different sports teams and learnt a new language.

**How did going to University benefit you?**

University was one of the best things I ever did. I wouldn't be the same person today had I not been to University. It gave me confidence and helped me become much more independent and learn a lot about myself. I lived away from home for the first time and met so many different people, so it gave me a sense of the real world. As a result of being at University I became a much more determined person, and realized the things I wanted out of life, and the things I didn't want.

**How about campus life? Can you describe how it was to study here at Edgbaston Campus rather than in a City Centre location?**

Campus life is great because there is that community feel, being surrounded by other students. It helps that Edgbaston campus is beautiful and I had a certain sense of pride as I walked to campus each day. It was nice to be able to live so close to campus and walk there each day. Being a campus university also meant that it was easy to meet up with friends, or be part of the University activities because everything is centrally located.

**How did you find living in Birmingham? Was it how you expected it to be? Have you found the student community here supportive?**

I enjoyed living in Birmingham. I lived in Selly Oak and that was great because it was close to campus and easy to get into and out of town. It was similar to how I expected - a lot more fun in fact!

**Did you join any student societies or take part in any events?**

I joined intra-mural mixed netball and six-a-side football. I was part of the gymnastics and trampolining club, taking part in trampolining competitions for the University. I was also part of the Psychology society. I joined BurnFM, the student radio station and did a morning show with a friend of mine.

**Any tips or words of wisdom that you would like to pass on to other students thinking of coming to study here?**

Go for it! You won't regret it. University is what you make of it. There are so many opportunities available to you at University. It is a great way to explore, discover and learn.

**What are your aspirations for the future?**

In the future, I would like to get more involved in the fitness industry, to help to inspire and motivate the people around me.



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