

## Stephnie Kettle, BA Social Work (2010)

### Where are you working now and what are you doing?



I am currently in the process of applying for jobs and attending interviews. My goal is to secure a social work position within one of the local authorities near Birmingham.

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

The best thing about being a student at the University of Birmingham was being constantly challenged. The various learning methods used during my time ensured that I was pulled from out of my comfort zone from time to time. It forced me to do things that I would not have voluntarily done before. Studying here gave me the ability to recognise my very able academic abilities and believe in myself 100%.

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

In every way possible. I lived in Birmingham anyway and I knew that I wanted to stay local. I also knew that the University of Birmingham was the best university in Birmingham. When I was doing my GCSEs I had a thing about wanting to study at a university in the United States because of the environment and student lifestyle, but when I saw the University of Birmingham campus I knew that this was the University for me because it had an American feel to it. It was just beautiful! Event though I lived in Birmingham, I still went into student residence and that experience matured me and prepared me for adulthood.

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

Set your goal from the beginning and aim high. You are at the university for a reason and that reason is that the university believes in you, therefore believe in yourself and do not be afraid to aim high. Once you know what you want to achieve it is up to you to go out and get it. Do not be afraid of hard work because as long as you stay committed you will get through it. Always read your assignment feedback and implement the suggestions in your next assignment. Get advice from your personal tutor and build a good relationship with him or her as they are there to help you through the good times and the stressful times.

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

Coming to University gave me confidence and has enabled me to think about things that I probably would not have considered before. I have been taught by some excellent lecturers and service users and that in itself has been invaluable.