

Alumni profiles - Aliko Taylor

Masters of Public Health (MPH), Part-time 1999 & PhD 2007

Director of Observational Research in Biotechnology

“Carrying out a PhD in Cancer Epidemiology at Birmingham was rewarding as there are strong existing links with cancer charities and other universities with cancer epidemiology research teams.”



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

I have worked both in the NHS as a medical doctor and also in academia. My qualifications have allowed me to work as a director in a specialist field using my medical and epidemiological skills in the biotechnology industry.

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

I work with many different colleagues from different countries with skills in many areas, most of whom have a science or medical background. The job requires a high level of dedication and commitment and I continue to learn more about different cancers every year and the potential treatments available. It is a very exciting time with so many new products being developed with novel technologies and it is a fiercely competitive market. There is a certain amount of travel within Europe and to the US and interaction with many highly skilled professionals outside of the company.

Why did you originally apply to do your chosen course at Birmingham?

I am primarily an epidemiologist and love to learn more about different diseases, in particular cancer.

What did you think were the best points of the course and the University?

Carrying out a PhD in Cancer Epidemiology at Birmingham was rewarding as there are strong existing links with cancer charities and other universities with cancer epidemiology research teams. There are also a number of academics at Birmingham who work in the field. The public health department is also strong.

What advice would you give to current students studying on the course?

It can take a while to complete a PhD but if you are thinking of a specialist career it may be necessary to do one. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication but it is worth it in the end. It is also a great opportunity to learn about one area in a lot of detail.

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

I have four degrees and am a member of the Faculty of Public Health so I have spent most of my working life affiliated with one university or another. My current job is the first one I have had that is not linked to studying for a university degree at the same time. I do love learning new things but there comes a time when it is time to move on and use the knowledge and skills you have gained!