

Graduation Matters

November 2008



Coaching champions for life

Leeds Met has a 100 year history of commitment to coaching students, and using sporting and cultural partnerships to enhance your student experience. Coaching and working in partnership are the essence of Leeds Met and you have been encouraged to use your talents to the full at university, gaining experience you can use to coach others in their future careers.

Earlier this week, on the very stage where you are graduating, the University

hosted Yorkshire Gold. Having acquired the status as the home of The UK Centre for Coaching Excellence in sport and disability sport, the University was the venue for a day of celebrating and exploring the opportunities offered by the 2012 London Olympics. Students, staff and partners at Leeds Met welcomed Paul Deighton, chief executive of the London Organising Committee for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). A packed day of activities showcased young talent with

the region's internationally renowned arts companies, including Leeds Met partners Opera North and Northern Ballet Theatre.

From rubbing shoulders with such champions of sport and culture, Leeds Met students are given valuable experience, from Freshers' Festival to the celebration of your achievements at the Graduation Festival we believe that every day, every student has opportunities to flourish in ways that will help you reach your own personal gold.

Academic journey



Jane Welbourn studied MSc International Hospitality Management part-time over two years at Leeds Met. She achieved a distinction and now lectures for the University's Leslie Silver International Faculty in Hospitality & Retailing. Jane said, "I have had a great experience studying at Leeds Met. The course has increased my knowledge of the international hospitality business. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of getting back into education and making friends with students from all over the world."

Jane, who has worked as a consultant in hospitality training, chose to study for a postgraduate qualification as she wanted to move from the corporate environment to the academic. Jane added, "I got far more than a degree at Leeds Met during my two years of study, it has been a whole learning journey. It's a student-centred university and I have been well supported by academics, lecturers and my fellow students."

Jane described graduating as, "a great sense of achievement and attending the ceremony with my family will make it all worth while." Jane now intends to develop her lecturing career at Leeds Met.

Russian enterprise



Russian Maria Yudina is one of the first cohort to graduate with the MSc International Enterprise, which she undertook as a continuation of her studies with our partner university, Moscow International Business School.

Maria really enjoyed the 'amazing' welcome she received at our Freshers' Festival where she met lots of new people and learned of the many opportunities available through the University.

One of the events she took part in was the Carnegie Great Student Run which she completed with two friends, one of whom is a professional runner, and was encouraged at the 3km mark by student ambassadors who cheered her on with, "Go, go Miss Russia".

Maria has loved her time on the masters and at Leeds Met, enjoying the diversity of the course modules and the incredibly helpful staff who were always available when she needed information or advice.

Being a city girl she also fell in love with Leeds immediately getting to know both the locals and international students, and she would love to stay and work here.

Developing economics

Following her graduation from a Leeds Met degree in economics, Ferheen Khan from Leeds chose to continue her studies with a masters in international trade and finance, believing it would secure her a better job in the long run. She chose to diversify her economics qualification with a subject that included modules in marketing, finance and economic development and now aims to work in a regional development agency where she can contribute to regeneration projects.

Ferheen credits her lecturers and course mates with her merit pass saying, "The lecturers really knew their topics and having taught in China were experienced in teaching a broad and diverse student group. They also gave up their own time to run revision sessions to help us through the tougher assignments. Having joined a cohort of 15, with all my class mates being international students from Thailand, Portugal, Russia, China and beyond, we soon became very close. We really supported each other with organised and impromptu group sessions which helped take the pressure off and, despite the hard work involved, we had a lot of fun studying and socialising together for the whole year."



A day to remember



Graduation is not only a celebration of student's achievements; it is also one of the largest events in the University's calendar. Over the Graduation Festival, staff from the Registrar & Secretary's Office and across faculties will be on hand to ensure your day runs as smoothly as possible.

Do you have an interesting story to tell about your university experience? We profile students at every ceremony asking you to reflect on your time at Leeds Met. This year you could be one of them. Look

out for our team of profilers before and after every ceremony. You may also be captured on film; at this summer's graduations several hours of video footage and over 15,000 photographs were taken.

Once the ceremonies are over, graduates and their guests should be able to see their images and profiles on our website. You can see our teams working to ensure our graduation coverage is as timely as possible, as they work together in the Helpzone. At our last graduation there

were photos of graduates receiving their degrees uploaded to the website before the ceremonies had even finished.

This year you can also send us your own pictures taken on your mobile phone, send your texts and messages to 07826 876666. You will be able to see these and look for yourself on our image galleries and video footage through the University's website

www.leedsmet.ac.uk





Progression Module

Each year, Leeds Met's Winter Graduation ceremonies begin with students who have completed Leeds Met's Progression Module being presented with their certificates.

The Progression Module, a formal programme of study run by the Get Ahead team, helps sixth form students investigate routes into higher education. It offers practical advice on issues students face such as finding accommodation and shopping on a budget, as well as advice on writing CVs and filling in UCAS forms. Successful completion of the module earns prospective students UCAS points.

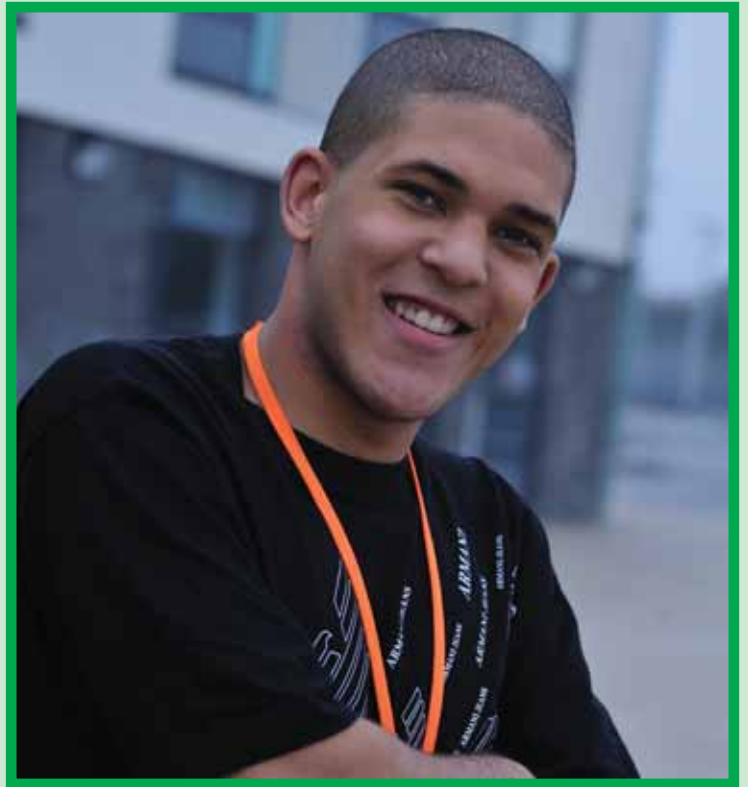
Lyn O'Reilly, headteacher at Tong High School, says, "The progression module is a perfect example of how schools and universities can link together to ensure that pathways for young people can genuinely stay open and remain seamless. The course provides a bridge for students, and the links with the University offers them an opportunity to be rid of the fear that education, beyond the familiar school gate, is not for them, and is not accessible or even possible."



Legal ambition

Aspiring lawyer, and 17-year-old Aneesa Rafiq, is one of many sixth-form students who have completed the Leeds Met-initiated progression module in preparation for university life. Aneesa who is currently studying for A levels in law, psychology and business hopes to gain further law qualifications at Leeds Met and ultimately secure a career in contract law.

Through the progression module Aneesa has developed skills including CV writing, internet research, budgeting and researching accommodation options. As well as these practical skills, Aneesa also conducted a SWOT analysis on herself and has learnt to appreciate that she can add value to her degree with extra-curricular activities such as becoming a member of the Law Society and completing a placement whilst at university.



Progressing technology

Having already gained industry experience through work placements at Dixons' Computer College and PC World, 17-year-old Mathew Midgely is studying A level English, ICT and psychology with the aim of finding work in the ICT sector.

Mathew is one of many sixth form students who have completed the Leeds Met-initiated progression module in preparation for university life and future career paths.

Without the progression module Mathew admits he would have struggled to complete his personal statement in support of his UCAS application, but by having dedicated time within his class schedule he was able to ensure it effectively represented his education, work and personal experience.

Having visited the university for a UCAS Fair, Mathew is now planning to come and continue his studies in ICT at Leeds Met.



Carnegie Graduate School

Join us at the Carnegie Graduate School, and we'll offer you all the support you need to help achieve your academic potential and career goals. In addition to a wide range of programmes, we can also offer you:

- a variety of study options
- recognition for prior learning
- a supportive learning environment

What is more, as a student at the Carnegie Graduate School, you will be assigned a personal coach who will help you achieve your peak potential. You will also have opportunities to study extra-curricular subjects; access our sporting, cultural and educational partners, and to volunteer in the region and across the world.

Here at the Carnegie Graduate School, our approach to taught postgraduate and professional courses is unique. In addition to 'master classes' by professors and leading figures in the professions, we offer creative teaching which will help you to link the theory on your course to your own practice.

Courses at the Carnegie Graduate School are broadly grouped as:

Master of Arts & Culture
Master of Business

Master of Education
Master of Environment & Society
Master of Health & Well-being
Master of International
Master of Leadership
Master of Law
Master of Management
Master of Sport
Master of Technology

Representatives from the University are on hand during Graduation with details of opportunities for you and your guests, including options for further studies. Leeds Met is able to offer our graduates a 10% discount on postgraduate courses beginning in the next academic year.

Alternatively, find out more by visiting our Carnegie Graduate School website at: www.leedsmet.ac.uk/gradschool

Or contact our Course Enquiries team

Tel: 0113 812 3113

Email: course-enquiries@leedsmet.ac.uk



Hospitable welcome

Sofia Rebelo, who graduated with a merit in MSc International Hospitality Management, says, "I loved my time at Leeds Met. It was my first experience of the British education system and the support I received was absolutely fantastic. The lecturers were always available and the library and other learning resources are outstanding."

Sofia chose Leeds Met after speaking to the course leaders and went on to study part time whilst managing a hotel in Wetherby. Sofia had previously worked in the hospitality industry in Mallorca and Lisbon as well as the Institute for Tourism in Macau. Sofia added, "The Skills for Learning resources made my transition back into education a lot smoother". Sofia said: "It was a fabulous, student-centred course and it has restarted my journey back into education. I have studied in three different countries; however the welcome and support I received at Leeds Met was world-class." Sofia now works within the Leslie Silver International, lecturing on the undergraduate hospitality course.

Supporting study

itive Anthony Ukre-Umukoro, 30, completed his first degree in biochemistry in Nigeria. After researching the University and Leeds for a masters course, Anthony decided that the January start date, the cost of the course and the city suited his plans perfectly.

Anthony commented, "I have had such a good experience, my student advisor has been wonderful in supporting me through a serious illness and the lecturers have been so helpful. The level of support is so different to my previous institution and I wish I had known about Leeds Met when I did my first degree. The Freshers' Festival was a great introduction to everything going on at the University. It gave me the confidence to approach people and ask questions."

Among those he met in Leeds is his wife, with whom he now has a baby daughter. They will both be attending his graduation alongside his brother and local pastor.

Anthony is now considering a career in ICT teaching in secondary schools. First, he plans to spend time with his parents in Nigeria.



Global horizons

Sarah Hicks feels very honoured to have had the opportunity to combine studying for the MA Development in Global Societies with her duties in the Vice-Chancellor's Office. She feels even more privileged that she is now able to apply what she has learnt into a new role in the University's Senator George Mitchell Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

Sarah says, "The course is very fluid with the academic freedom to apply your own areas of interest to your studies. The teaching sessions are a great forum for open discussion with the international students stimulating the debate by bringing in their own personal experiences. It's really inspiring how you learn to resolve conflict situations and bring out the positives, with everyone on the course being passionate about wanting to make a difference and contribute positively.

"As well as being able to apply what I've learnt to my work at Leeds Met, I am also more aware and sensitive to the issues surrounding global business, which is invaluable when working within an institution with world-wide horizons and talking to partners about global issues.

She continues, "I never, ever thought I'd get a masters when I arrived at Leeds Met to study tourism and I'm so grateful I've been given the opportunity to do so."



Yorkshire Gold

School pupils from West Yorkshire were among those who enjoyed the Yorkshire Gold day at the University, celebrating and exploring the opportunities offered by the London 2012 Olympics.

The University hosted numerous sporting activities over the day, including a schools partnerships' sports competition, a business lunch, creative workshops for students and a medal presentation to winning teams by Paralympics cycling gold medallist, David Stone. The day was concluded with performances showcasing Yorkshire talent including Opera North, Northern Ballet Theatre and a dazzling light show.

Graduation Matters is produced by the team in Communications & Marketing tel 0113 812 6734, www.leedsmet.ac.uk