



SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

MSc in Major Programme Management Scholar Profiles

2018-19



Carolyn Gibson

MSc in Major Programme Management Scholarship for Women (2018-2020)

Country of nationality: Netherlands & USA

Sector: Strategy & Technology

Carolyn's career has varied considerably across disciplines, industries and locations over the past twenty years with the central thread being major programme management.

After a BA from Harvard, Carolyn joined the United Nations working initially for the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva as a speechwriter before running programmes across Europe from a base in Zagreb, Croatia. Following an MBA at Warwick Business School, she joined the Programme Leadership team at Deloitte Consulting in London. During this period she worked on everything from major programmes for international companies to public sector improvement programmes in the UK including shared service and e-government implementations. Clients included GEC, the Department of Health and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Now Head of Consulting at i-nexus, the world's leading strategy execution software company, Carolyn is directing the effort to provide Fortune 500 clients with the best practice processes, tools and techniques to ensure the strategies they develop actually achieve the intended outcomes. Carolyn's clients include a variety of well-known private sector brands from Pratt & Whitney to Société Générale, and public sector organisations such as the Colorado Department of Health and NHS trusts.

Carolyn grew up in Vermont, USA and lives in Sutton Coldfield, England with her husband, Trev. She has a large family, including three sons, a daughter and two grandchildren. Her favourite things include big Sunday breakfasts with the whole family, long walks with friends and holidays in the mountains wherever and whenever she can fit them in.

On the subject of the scholarship, she writes:

"I am incredibly honoured to be awarded the MMPM Scholarship. As with many women, I had to make the hard choice between career progression (partnership at Deloitte) and full-time motherhood, and after much reflection, chose the latter. Returning to work many years later, and into a technology based company, was a huge challenge; that I have adapted, and indeed thrived, is an experience I want to share with others in similar positions.

Furthermore, as the flow, interpretation and control of data is becoming more and more central to business and social structures, and provides the very backbone of major programmes, I would like use this opportunity to encourage those with an interest to make the leap into the world of technology. While it may appear daunting from the outside, the opportunities it opens is worth the inevitable stumbles along the way.

The MMPM feels like not just a step but indeed a springboard into this new phase of my life. There is so much to learn in the area of programme management and technology. I am thrilled at the prospect of meeting those as interested in programme management as I am - Cohort 10, the professors and the visiting lecturers. It is going to be an amazing two years."



Simone Mendonca

MSc in Major Programme Management Scholarship for Women (2018-2020)

Country of nationality: Brazil

Sector: Aeronautics

A Brazilian/Belgian national with a degree in Architecture and Urban Planning from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, an MBA in Project Management and a certificate in Airport Management, Simone has developed a varied and interesting career to match her academics. Beginning her working life as an architect in Rio de Janeiro, where she contributed to the construction of Rio de Janeiro's domestic and international airports, she moved on to direct her own real estate company in Belgium, before returning to Brazil to become a project manager in infrastructure. Now, she is working at the airport she helped to construct at the very start of her career.

As Land Side Manager for Rio de Janeiro's Riogaleao International Airport, Simone is the first woman to have ever been appointed as an airport manager in Brazil. Her role involves the responsible operation of the passenger terminal, thereby ensuring that the safety and quality of service for the 70,000 people using the facilities every day is paramount. She was also responsible for the passenger operation during the 2016 Olympic Games and has managed the design and works follow up for the most recent airport expansion.

Simone has founded Instituto Dé Mendonca Lupus Care, a non-profit organisation working to create awareness about the disease, as well as assisting and advocating for patients in Brazil. She is fluent in Spanish and English.

Speaking of the scholarship, Simone said:

"Words cannot express how delightful it is to be honoured with the MMPM Women's Scholarship. It is a privilege to become a student of this institution, having the opportunity to learn and share experiences with world-leading experts in this field. I am sure that taking part in this course will strengthen my abilities and prepare me for facing the complex challenges in the major programme in which I am currently involved. My congratulations to the Saïd Business School for encouraging women all over the world on their professional and academic development."



Zoe Stewart

MSc in Major Programme Management Scholarship for Women (2018-2020)

Country of nationality: UK

Sector: Construction

Zoe holds a Master of Engineering from the University of Loughborough and is a chartered civil engineer and qualified project manager. Her career in engineering and project management has taken an impressive and varied route. Since 2016, she has been a lead design manager and project manager on HS2 Ltd, where she is implementing a strategic design engagement programme to ensure HS2 remains innovative and collaborative. Prior to this role she worked in senior project management, including coordinating design on the £1bn Singapore Sports Hub and for the London 2012 Olympics.

As a Reserve Royal Engineer Commissioned Officer (Major) in the British Army, she has also led infrastructure and engineering projects worth up to £1bn in Afghanistan, including developing the initial base infrastructure of Camp Bastion in 2006.

In her spare time, Zoe enjoys competing in triathlons (Ironman) and travelling; she has also climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, Machu Picchu and beyond Everest Base Camp.

Zoe's experience working on some of the largest infrastructure projects in the UK will be no doubt integral to the MMPM 2018-2020 cohort.

On the subject of the scholarship she writes:

'It feels very surreal, but I feel incredibly fortunate and privileged to have been awarded a female scholarship at Saïd Business School. I am looking forward to being part of Cohort 10 and having the opportunity to develop new skills and expanding my understanding with leading academics and practitioners in major programme management from around the world.

Although the magnitude of the course is daunting, I am also very excited about what the next 24 months may bring and the opportunity to expand my understanding in how to apply current thinking and research in the transformation of how major programmes are delivered in the future and increasing my credibility as an effective leader in this field. I'm also excited to have the opportunity to inspire, support and share my passion for delivery with other women and practitioners in the industry.'



Mai E'liemat

MSc in Major Programme Management Scholarship for Women (2017-2019)

Country of nationality: Jordan

Sector: Non Profit / NGO

Mai is co-founder of Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development, a non-governmental civil society organisation in Amman, Jordan, where she is currently Head of Strategy and Research. Al-Hayat Center was established in 2006, now has over 25 employees and 10,000 volunteers, and is one of the most influential NGOs in Jordan.

Mai acted as the Independent Reporting Mechanism to evaluate Jordan's first and second action plan for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) (2012-2015). In 2014, Mai acted as a judge for the Global OGP Award, reviewing and ranking applications from a range of countries on the theme of Citizen's Engagement. She is also a 2016 alumna of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) *Youth and Community Conflict Resolution*, which is a programme for distinguished young political activists in Jordan, funded by the US Embassy in Amman.

Mai conducted and co-authored research on Women and Violent Radicalization in Jordan for UN Women in Jordan, a UN organisation dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Mai also established a programme entitled *Strengthen the Capacity of Rural Women and Female Municipal Members to Defend Women Rights & Participation in Jordan*. This programme received the Intercultural Achievement Award from the Austrian Foreign Ministry for Europe.

Mai lives in Jordan with her husband and three children of ten, seven and two years old.

Speaking of the scholarship, Mai said:

'I am so grateful and proud to be awarded the Women's Scholarship, and to participate in this programme of study. As one of the founders of Al-Hayat Center, I was motivated to apply for this programme by the desire to further develop my capacity to guide my organisation's growth and sustainability. With the organisation's last ten years of dramatic growth, we need new methods and approaches to maintain a balance that preserves quality of work and credibility. Through this programme, I am confident that I will gain a network of professors and fellow students whose practical experiences will be an invaluable benefit to my management skills. Although I am coming from outside of the business sector, I hope that my background in the grassroots community will be an added value for the programme and will help me to engage more women from my community, encouraging them towards similar studies and careers.'



Danijela Mirkov-Arkula

Oxford- Edith Murphy Foundation MSc in Major Programme Management
Scholarship for Women (2017-2019)

Country of nationality: Serbia

Sector: Investment Management

Danijela is Senior Investment Advisor to Terra Partners Asset Management Limited (TPAM), an Investment Manager company, based in Malta. She has served as TPAM's Board Representative in two companies and also as Chairperson of General Assembly in another. Danijela performs extensive in-depth research on frontier market companies in Eastern Europe, Middle East and Asian markets and has identified a number of 'buy' recommendations, many of which have led to investments or equity participation. She has also undertaken numerous due-diligence research visits to: the six ex- Yugoslavian countries; Russia; Belarus; Ukraine; Uzbekistan; Georgia; Poland; Hungary; Bulgaria and Albania, and has organised marketing and due-diligence trips for prospective investors to Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro, resulting in capital formation.

Danijela holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics with a major in Internal and Foreign Trade, and an MBA with a major in Marketing. After achieving her MBA, Danijela broadened her knowledge into the legal field, by studying Serbian Bankruptcy Law, for which she was awarded an Insolvency Administrator license. Subsequently, she enrolled in the CFA Institute's Chartered Financial Analyst programme and attained CFA Charterholder designation in 2014.

Danijela is also a member of the Steering Committee appointed to implement the European Union's Capital of Culture 2021 award to the city of Novi Sad, Serbia. The project has been declared a project of national importance by the Republic of Serbia, and as such is the object of intense Serbian media scrutiny. Danijela is the only member of the managerial team with in-depth financial and business experience and as such will be overseeing budgets and ensuring financial viability of the overall project.

Outside of her professional life, Danijela is a mother of three. In addition to Serbian and English, she also speaks the Russian language.

On the subject of the scholarship, Danijela reflects:

"When I learned about being awarded this prestigious scholarship, I felt extremely honoured and thankful. I believe that this course, in conjunction with my experience, will markedly increase my competence in managing major projects I am already involved in, as well as those that will present themselves in the future. Consequently, I believe that it will elevate the quality and range of my work. Finally, I believe that the knowledge I will gain on this course will strengthen my authority among my peers and other professionals operating in emerging and frontier markets, thus helping me promote the need for market players to take part in building their societies, and the construction of inclusive political and economic institutions, instead of merely accepting the current deformed and distorted structures."



Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford blends the best of new and old. We are a vibrant and innovative business school, but yet deeply embedded in an 800-year-old world-class university. We create programmes and ideas that have global impact. We educate people for successful business careers, and as a community seek to tackle world-scale problems. We deliver cutting-edge programmes and ground-breaking research that transform individuals, organisations, business practice, and society. We seek to be a world-class business school community, embedded in a world-class university, tackling world-scale

'I consider it a great honour to have been awarded this scholarship from Oxford University. It will enable me to learn new skills and gain a wider perspective and appreciation of the challenges of major programmes from other industries. I also see this as an opportunity to promote diversity and inclusion on behalf of the University.' Saïd Business School MSc in Major Programme Management Scholar, 2015-17.'

Your support

We are dedicated to inspiring the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs. To help us achieve this, we need your support. If you are interested in funding a scholarship at Saïd Business School, please contact Tom Childs.

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