

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

SCHOOL OF
ARTS, LANGUAGES
AND CULTURES

American Studies *Our Graduates*

The Past Decade: 2014 - 2025



A degree in American Studies from the University of Manchester provides you with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to embark on a successful, and rewarding career in the global workplace of the twenty-first century. As director of the American Studies programme, I am delighted to see our graduates thriving in the contemporary workplace, embarking on careers and establishing themselves in an array of fields, and drawing on the abilities and perspectives that my colleagues and the wider University have helped to train.

Amid the pandemic, in 2021, the American Studies programme produced the first issue of this booklet, to understand better the career paths that our graduates were following. Three years on, I was interested to return to the project, to bring in some new faces and industries to the gallery of graduates that we showcase. I also wanted to look with fresh eyes at the current career landscape for American Studies graduates. In the aftermath of a global pandemic, changing relations between the UK and Europe, and a challenging economic climate, how are our most recent graduates faring? What are they up to? And, crucially for us, how have they used the subject knowledge, skills, and wider experiences that our degrees gave them?

Official figures have consistently told us that most of our graduates are in 'highly skilled work', or further study, within 15 months of their graduation. Other reports suggest that around one in ten of our programme's most recent graduates are choosing to enter training schemes, pursue professional qualifications, or complete postgraduate degrees in the years immediately leaving us. For many this might involve taking a law conversion course, a PGCE qualification, the civil service examination. Not uncommonly American Studies graduates also pursue master's qualifications, and a number head to North America to do so. In the past decade, our graduates have studied for master's degrees at NYU in fine art (**Bea Bacon, ELAS '20**), and for social and cultural analysis (**Tiger Hornby, AS '20**); for master's in international security studies in Colorado (**Jessica Morris, AS '17**); in American and Indigenous Studies in Wyoming (**Georgina Mullins and Cara Barclay, HAS '23**); and even for doctorates in American Literature in California (**Becca Hamilton, ELAS '18**).

This updated booklet better describes those among our graduates who have pursued careers beyond the UK. It features profiles of three who graduated in the past decade, who are now living and working in New York, Vancouver, and Laramie, Wyoming. What follows are the profiles of sixteen of those who graduated from our programme since 2014. They each took degrees in single honours American Studies (**AS**), History and American Studies (**HAS**), and English Literature and American Studies (**ELAS**).

Together these short pieces capture the variety of career paths our students have taken. They reaffirm how a degree in American Studies from Manchester opens up new and expansive horizons for graduate employment. Our graduates, perhaps

surprisingly, go into positions in the law, financial services, the civil service, and surveying. Almost 10 percent of our graduates become teachers, mostly as secondary teachers of English Literature or History, though occasionally as teachers of the Humanities.

While this booklet brings together an admittedly modest sample of all who have graduated from the programme, it is a representative one. It brings into view some of general realms where our graduates thrive, particularly: media production; publishing and editing; policy, consultancy, and senior administration; communications and marketing; heritage, conservation, and curatorial work.

That so many American Studies graduates have taken up positions in the cultural and creative sectors is the direct result of the opportunities we offer in the classroom: to think about global media; to engage with the production of film, photography, and literature; and to express themselves with clarity on the page and in person. The opportunity to spend time—potentially one-year—in North America as part of our degrees is also of huge benefit, and, as several note below, of considerable professional advantage. Some of our most recent graduates have gone on to careers as art practitioners, screen writers, game designers (**Nihal Tharoor, HAS '14**), and professional actors (**Flora Higgins, ELAS '19**). Many more have taken up roles in arts administration and the cultural heritage sectors, including as the head of knowledge and information management at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (**Meg Venter, AS '11**), senior managers at the British Council (**Isobel Cecil, ELAS '15**), education project coordinators at the Paul Hamlyn Foundation (**Tarik Ross-Cameron, AS '12**), and Centre for Sustainable Fashion (**Lou Budd, AS '14**). This is a long-standing pattern, confirmed by earlier cohorts, which includes, for example, the likes of the acclaimed television screenwriter Jesse Armstrong (**AS, '94**), and the BBC radio broadcaster, writer, and musician Mark Radcliffe (**ELAS, '79**).

This booklet aims to give you a sense of the types of career paths our most recent graduates have selected, and how they have found their way into those careers. It shows that many take a year—during which time they continue to have access to the University of Manchester's Careers Service—to find their feet in a field. By sharing the stories of those alumni who graduated recently from our programme, we hope to help you—as a prospective student, the parent thereof, or a current finalist about to embark on the next phase of your life—envisage the professional opportunities that lie ahead with a degree in American Studies from the University of Manchester.

Dr. Andrew Fearnley
The University of Manchester

LOGISTICS PLANNING



Samantha Marsland (AS '15) is a Schedule Planner in the Capacity Planning team at Vancouver Airport Authority

I currently work as a Schedule Planner in the Capacity Planning team at Vancouver Airport Authority after moving to Canada in early 2024. This role involves coordinating with airlines to ensure every flight into Vancouver has a runway slot and enough terminal resources to accommodate passengers while keeping within the airport's capacity limits. My job is like a giant airport puzzle!

Airport slots are an international policy area and grant airlines the right to use infrastructure at certain airports. Vancouver Airport is somewhat unique in that it is located on an island and has both land and water runways. The role involves communicating with airlines to ensure they are applying for their schedules correctly and that they are operating them as planned. I also have to consider whether the airport is using its infrastructure efficiently, and complying with international slot policy. The job occasionally requires responding to last minute operational challenges, such as presidential visits to the airport.



Airport slot coordination is one of a number of aviation policy areas I have been interested in since graduating from the University of Manchester in 2015. I first started working in aviation when I joined the Manchester Airport strategy graduate scheme, immediately after leaving university. I knew I wanted to stay around Manchester following my graduation, and the international nature of the industry, as well as its connection to the city, made Manchester Airport an attractive employer. The graduate scheme involved work in commercial development and corporate strategy, and I was responsible for supporting the airport in attracting new airlines. I helped to shape the airport's response to UK and international aviation policies, a move that enabled me to transfer as a Principal Consultant at



a London-based transport consultancy firm, prior to moving to Canada. In this role I worked on projects for UK and EU governments and regulators on airport slots, airspace, and aviation decarbonisation policies.

My degree in American Studies at the University of Manchester gave me the international outlook that has been the foundation of my career. My degree helped me stand out when interviewing for my first job, which ultimately landed my

“My degree in American Studies at the University of Manchester gave me the international outlook that has been the foundation of my career. My degree helped me stand out when interviewing for my first job”

first position in the aviation industry. Like much of the content in the UG modules I took, developing new air routes requires an understanding of the geopolitical landscape across different countries and regions. I have also been required to review, analyse and respond to complex aviation policy documents. The skills developed as part of my degree, particularly the ability to analyse and summarise texts, prepared me well for these tasks.

Some of the modules taken during my time at the University of Manchester focused on certain areas of social policy in the US. During my year abroad at the University of California, Berkeley, I also took modules in international relations and an introduction to public policy. This was where my interest in policy started and it led to my further study in Public Policy at King's College London in 2021. I was pleased that my ability to write essays, research, and reference correctly quickly came back to me after a break from education! My foundational understanding of the US, developed during my BA, shaped my decision to include it as a country case study in my Master's dissertation.

My year abroad in California was the highlight of my three-year undergraduate degree, opening my eyes to what living in another country could offer. I loved it so much I have always wanted to return to North America to work and live, and I have now done so! I am really enjoying living in Vancouver, and am only a two hour flight away from San Francisco where I still keep in touch with friends from my study abroad year!

MEDIA AND CREATIVE SECTORS

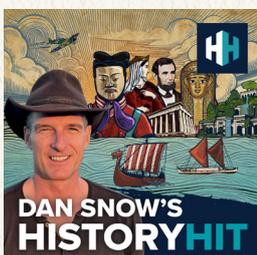


Mariana Des Forges (AS '14) is a Senior Producer on Dan Snow's History Hit Podcast

Today, I'm sitting at my desk writing a script for an episode about the Uruguayan Rugby team whose plane crash landed in the Andes in 1972 and they had to resort to cannibalism to survive. We're doing a podcast mini-series with a survivor and family members of those involved. But this time last week, I was walking backwards through the famous food market in Xian China, filming an Instagram reel of TV Historian Dan Snow explaining the history of the city that was once the beginning of the Silk Road.

I graduated from the University of Manchester with a degree in American Studies in 2014 and pursued a career in broadcast journalism, working for BBC Radio 4 and the BBC World Service, before becoming the Senior Producer behind Dan Snow's History Hit in 2021, one of the world's biggest history podcasts. We're in a golden age of podcasting at the moment, it seems as though everyone has or wants a podcast, but it is so much more than just setting up a microphone in your bedroom and hitting record. Producers are the people who make the industry possible—working with talent and guests, figuring out engaging formats for your favourite comedy podcasts, and undertaking research and investigations for true crime. I do all of this and in my case I'm also responsible for marketing the podcast to grow the show's audience globally, as well as negotiating commercial deals with advertisers, and working with an agency to deliver content that funds the production.

Dan Snow's History Hit is a very versatile show—we do both chatty interviews and long-form documentaries. We help listeners make sense of the world by explaining the history behind the headlines and telling the greatest stories of humanity and why everything is the way it is. In one episode we might be unravelling how Brexit really happened, and the next we are beguiling listeners with tales of the adventures of great explorers in Antarctica. I've been lucky enough to join Dan on several TV shoots to make accompanying podcast series. We've so far visited the Valley of the Kings for Tutankhamun's tomb, Machu Picchu, and most recently the Terracotta Warriors in China.



My job is also much more than recording audio and video content on location. It requires a lot of organisation, research, and script writing skills, all of which I honed while at the University of Manchester doing my American Studies degree. The bread and butter of good storytelling is a compelling structure, which is learned writing essays and producing a dissertation. In the same way, you also have to think: how am I going to turn these pages and pages of information into a coherent and compelling narrative? I also rely on the research skills I learnt on the American Studies degree, making sure I can trust my sources, and deciding what information is useful and what is superfluous.

I did not always work in history podcasting, I used to be a broadcast journalist and producer for the BBC World Service on a long-running documentary show called Outlook that tells extraordinary personal stories from people around the world. The episode I am most proud of is one I made with Mohamedou Ould Slahi (the subject of the film *The Mauritanian*) about his experiences of imprisonment in Guantanamo Bay and the close bond he formed with his guard. Working in journalism of course requires similar skills, and a curiosity and wider world view. The areas of study offered in the American Studies degree enabled me to expand my learning and explore different areas of US history, literature, politics, and sociology. The broadness of what is offered means you get to study plenty of things you are already interested in, and discover so much more. It also means that, now, when I'm looking for topics for the podcast, I have a really strong background knowledge of fascinating subjects to choose from. We have even had some of the lecturers who teach on the degree on the podcast!

The University of Manchester is a wonderful place to prepare you for a big world. The university is closely entwined with the city, and there are plenty of opportunities to grow and develop as a person, gain independence, and confidence. I spent a lot of time at the Manchester Museum—which we now often work with on the podcast—and also I did student radio. Fuse FM was a great place to try making radio for the first time. Over my three years, I hosted a number of radio shows, which gave me a lot of practical skills, confidence, and joy. It also gave me a direction to pursue as a way to marry my academic interests with an actual career. I used what I learnt on student radio to apply for an MA in Radio at Goldsmiths College, University of London, and while there won an award for a feature I made. The prize was an internship at the BBC, which is how my career got off the ground.

I often wish I could go back and redo my American Studies degree again, now that I'm older and have a better appreciation for all the incredible things we got to study... but I suppose the job I have now, making a history podcast, is as close as it gets!

MEDIA AND CREATIVE SECTORS



Stephanie Keyte (HAS '17) is partnerships coordinator at the English National Opera

After graduating with a First Class joint honors degree in American Studies and History in 2017, I moved to Australia, working in talent acquisition for an investment bank. After two years in Sydney, I moved back to London and I currently am the Partnerships Coordinator for the English National Opera. I work in a small fundraising team, which is responsible for raising over £4 million annually. I oversee account management of all of our partners, including our corporate members, comprised of law firms and financial institutions, and a huge range of other companies, such as MAC Makeup, Laurent-Perrier Champagne, and Hotel Chocolat.



The most exciting part of my role is definitely new business acquisition. I look at the projects and programmes that we have coming up, and will start to research potential companies that I think align with our values, and which would be interested in collaborating with us. As a nonprofit, we are looking for companies to make a financial investment. After collating a detailed prospect list, I will approach key decision makers at these companies and try to secure an invitation to pitch our proposal to their team. Having the skills to write persuasive and engaging pitches, as well as being able to pivot my writing style for the intended audience, is something I learnt on the American Studies course.

Our journey from cultivating prospective to actual partner relies heavily on my ability to network, host events, and steward senior corporate executives. The confidence I developed through speaking in seminars, debates, and presentations during my time at Manchester is instrumental to my success in securing investment for the ENO.

My favourite partnership that I have worked on was a collaboration with fashion designer Daniel Lismore and Swarovski. Lismore's designs were brought to life with 50,000 crystals donated by Swarovski, and our national



press campaign included articles in *Vogue* and *GQ Magazine*. We also held an opening night champagne and cocktail event with VIP guests, including Julian Day, costume designer for the *Rocketman* movie.

Deciding to join the American Studies programme at the University of Manchester in 2014 was one of the best decisions I have made. I spent three wonderful years on the

course, including a semester abroad at North Carolina State University. I believe the skills I learnt on this course set me up brilliantly for the challenges and pressures I have faced as a young graduate trying to get my foot on the career ladder.

“Deciding to join the American Studies programme at the University of Manchester in 2014 was one of the best decisions I have made.”

In 2022, Stephanie took up a role as partnerships manager at Frieze, a leading platform for modern and contemporary art.



MEDIA AND CREATIVE SECTORS



Hattie Charnley-Shaw (AS '18), Learning Producer (Community Partnerships and Events), National Science and Media Museum

In 2023 I began my current role as Learning Producer at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford, West Yorkshire. I am responsible for developing the Museum's public programme, which includes exhibitions, events, festivals and film screenings. The National Science and Media Museum has a world-class collection relating to sound and vision technologies, which are displayed as part of permanent and temporary exhibitions. The most recent have included 'Switched On' celebrating 100 years of the BBC and 'Top Secret' about the history of codebreaking and cybersecurity.

As a producer, I plan and deliver events that make an impact and inspire visitors, particularly those from communities that are marginalised in the heritage sector. One of the most impactful events I curate is the bi-annual Bradford Science Festival, a large-scale and memorable programme that subverts usual methods of science communication by commissioning enormous sloth puppets and six-foot tall chemistry experiments! The job has allowed me to learn more about accessibility at events, and, for example, I've worked to provide creative-audio description and innovative tactile resources for visitors who are blind or partially sighted.

American Studies at University of Manchester was a brilliant degree that laid the foundations for my career in the cultural and museum sectors. Both the degree of American Studies, and the city of Manchester offered me countless opportunities and experiences that shaped my career path. In fact I began in the sector during my Master's degree, when I undertook a paid internship at the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre, a University-affiliated library and archive collecting stories on race and migration, and based at the Central Library. During my time at the RACE Centre I worked on several projects, including the creation of a Hip Hop Study Guide to improve the link between the library's vast collections and a particular module on the American Studies course, as well as transcribing and analysing the fascinating interviews with American politicians and activists

American Studies at University of Manchester was a brilliant degree that laid the foundations for my career in the cultural and museum sectors. Both the degree of American Studies, and the city of Manchester offered me countless opportunities and experiences that shaped my career path.

conducted by the former American Studies professor Lou Kushnick. The one-year internship gave me the training and experience to successfully apply for the role of Collections Access Assistant, which I held for a further two years. It was this first postgraduate job that showed me that the passion in researching and understanding the impact of institutional inequality which my degree had nurtured could become a career.

As you enter the world of work as an American Studies graduate, you will find many colleagues have never heard of this brilliant, interdisciplinary degree. Yet as I explain to others, the diverse range of topics I learned about during my degree, and the skills I gained while studying, I am always reminded that American Studies has made me the person I am today.

Central to the jobs I have taken since graduating has been my commitment to community partnerships and tackling inequality and institutional racism. I attribute this to the passionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated teaching staff and course content within Manchester's American Studies programme. This degree provides the freedom to explore historical and contemporary topics through a variety of lenses, all of which are deeply relevant to anyone wishing to embed equality within their career path.



Dominic Parisutham, (HAS '17), Barrister

As a barrister I specialise in personal injury and medical negligence law. The day-to-day life of a barrister is incredibly varied. Court appearances are constant and can range from road traffic collisions to disease work, to animal attacks, to deaths in custody, catastrophic injuries, and even to contractual disputes over the sale of allegedly fraudulent pieces of fine art. Court appearances are balanced with drafting and advisory work. I advise lay clients on the strength of their case and solicitors on complex areas of law and how best to prosecute a claim. Clients can range from members of the public, businesses and government agencies. Cliché though it is to say, the day-to-day life of a barrister is never truly the same.

I had no plans to pursue a career in law while studying as an undergraduate at the University of Manchester. However, when I made the decision to join the Bar, the skills I developed during my History and American Studies degree were invaluable. Condensing large amounts of information, thinking creatively, and drawing on different sources and opinions were all taught and honed by the course.

It is also heartening to see the overlap between my degree and the law in practice. Eithne Quinn, my Film Studies module leader in 2016, co-authored *Racial Bias and the Bench* (Nov 2022), a report which tackled urgent questions about racial attitudes and practices in the justice system of England and Wales. She is also a leader in the study of using rap lyrics in litigation. While I may have overlooked the significance of this as a student, the American Studies department has a diverse collection of experts in many fields, including law, which provides an unmissable opportunity to gain prestigious experience which will be attractive to employers in a broad spectrum of industries.

I graduated with a 2:1 degree in History and American Studies in 2017. One of the most enjoyable aspects of my degree was how versatile it was. I can recall studying the history of work and play in the USA, making a documentary on drone warfare in the twenty-first century, and writing

my dissertation on the visual culture of WW1 and how this impacted on notions of masculinity. After graduating, I completed an English teaching qualification which I put to use in South East Asia. I have also worked in hospitality, alumni relations, business development, and as a PA in a residential nursing home. The range of jobs I have done is the strongest piece evidence to show how respected by employers a History and American Studies degree from the University of Manchester is.

There are three main reasons why I chose to study this degree at the University of Manchester. Firstly, the opportunity to Study Aboard, which I advise should be given serious consideration. Secondly, the wide variety of potential areas of study, which you can condense and navigate your own path through as the degree advances. Finally, Manchester is an excellent city, is rich in history, culture and diversity. The University is top tier and the American Studies department takes a genuine interest in the progression of all students.

Manchester's American Studies department has a diverse collection of experts in many fields, including law, which provides an unmissable opportunity to gain prestigious experience which will be attractive to employers in a broad spectrum of industries.

The legal sector is always looking for characters and personalities with interesting experiences once the requisite academic standard is met. Deciding to study History and American Studies set me on a path which enabled me to amass different and interesting experiences and to develop as a person which equipped me well for entering the legal profession.

PUBLISHING



Cai Reaich (HAS '14) is the Global User Experience (UX) Manager for Education at Cambridge University Press. The Education department is responsible for publishing resources for UK and international primary and secondary schools.

UX design, or User Experience, is often pigeon-holed as web design—however it is actually a much broader field. It encompasses any interaction or experience a customer has with a business—a sales call, a textbook, use of a video bank, making a complaint. This means that while I do design websites, I also conduct customer feedback, run workshops to identify problems, and test ideas with customers.

As a Global UX Manager for Education I am fortunate that my work straddles user experience, education, and publishing. This is great because it really diversifies my working week. Instead of just worrying about whether our designs affect sales



conversions, we also consider if we are helping children learn, and teachers teach effectively. The most rewarding aspect of my role is talking to teachers across the world. Surprisingly the life of an educational publisher is fairly glamorous: I have travelled to India, South Africa, Mozambique, USA, Qatar, Oman and Australia to conduct research.

I was one of the first UX designers at Cambridge University Press, so I have been fortunate to help shape its design culture. Since 2017 we have embedded direct customer research into product development, tracked the impact of our work, and introduced tools to maximise our scalability. Over the years my role has shifted from more focused screen design to bigger picture operations and strategic planning.

I'm fairly certain that I am the only designer at CUP who has a degree in History and American Studies—colleagues are always surprised when I mention it. However, I think my degree prepared me perfectly for my role and has allowed me to differentiate myself within the field. While I'm

still learning much of the graphic design elements of my job (typography still remains alien to me), my research, analysis and synthesis skills are regularly put to use. Both History and American Studies required me to gather and evaluate evidence, balance theories and present an argument—all of which are components of product development and UX design.



Design is also a field that acknowledges that your first attempt at solving a problem is likely to be rubbish so you're going to have to try again. This is something I was definitely used to with my first draft essays! Finally, during my year abroad at the University of California we were required to do a lot of presentations—from book reports to seminar debates. While

this was challenging at the time, it enabled me to be able to present to large audiences comfortably. I was actually scheduled to speak at the 2020 London Book Fair, and am excited to be on the judging panel for their International Excellence Awards for Educational Learning Resources in 2021.

My future ambitions at the Press fall into two categories: products and operations. Product-wise it feels as if the world is on the cusp of

"I'm fairly certain that I am the only designer at CUP who has a degree in History and American Studies."

some exciting digital learning products. Hopefully, with the shift in how schools, governments and universities now view digital, we can get the investment to develop transformative solutions. I've been surprised by how much I've enjoyed the educational and pedagogical layer of working at CUP, and I'd like any future role to encompass something similar. In terms of operations I really want to shift the culture at the Press, we're moving in the right direction but given that it was founded in 1534, what feels like fast progress for the business is slow progress for everyone else!

In 2021, Cai became Head of User Experience, Education at CUP.

PUBLISHING



Sadé Omeje (ELAS '19), is a freelance literary editor and editor at The Novelry

I work as both a freelance literary editor and as an editor at The Novelry, a writing school dedicated to contemporary fiction writers. My work revolves around helping writers develop their stories, guiding them from the earliest stages of an idea to a fully-realised manuscript. Whether working on literary fiction, memoir, magical realism or narrative non-fiction (my areas of focus), my job is to shape and refine narratives, ensuring they resonate with their intended audience.

When I was studying, I co-founded Polyphony for the EAC department, and worked on it as an Associate Editor. We worked with students

“When I edit, each project is different, requiring a tailored approach that balances the technical with the intuitive...”

and faculty members to curate, edit, and publish brilliant essays and creative works, and it's still running today! It was during this time that I started to consider the many roles within publishing—editorial, publicity, marketing, design, production—and the diversity of genres and age groups within the literary landscape, when Anna Kelly, who was the Editorial Director at 4th Estate (currently Publishing Director at Virago), came to speak. My English Literature & American Studies degree offered so many opportunities to hear from professionals directly like this, so I used as many of these as I could to my advantage. This experience felt instrumental in shaping my career path, and, three years later, I went on to be the editorial assistant to Anna Kelly.

I graduated in 2019 and after countless interviews (and train journeys) at publishers mostly in London (there are lots more regional offices now than there were), I started working at HarperCollins in 2020, where I joined as an Editorial Assistant and Publisher's Assistant across 4th Estate and William Collins. There, I worked across books by authors such as Coco Mellors, Emmanuel Iduma, Hannah Durkin, Rodrigo Garcia, and many more. This gave me invaluable insight into the publishing process, especially assisting the publisher—reading executive reports, scheduling

meetings, understanding the business element to publishing.

After a few years there, and a whirlwind year working at a start-up (long hours, lots of fun, a bit like dialogue—get in late, get out early) I started working as a freelancer. The Novelry drew me back into the fold of a company though, because they exist in response to the evolving publishing landscape, bringing together bestselling authors as writing coaches, and editors from the Big Five publishers, in pursuit of dispelling the myth of the solitary writer. Writing does not have to be a lonely endeavour!

Day to day, my work is deeply immersive—I spend most of my time reading, writing, and engaging with manuscripts at various stages of development. Studying English Literature and American Studies was instrumental groundwork for this. The amount of reading, essay writing, critical engagement with a text and attention to detail required on the course sets you up well for any role in publishing. What really stuck out for me was the range of modules the course offered, across film, literature, global politics and history. ELAS was the one course, out of all the universities I applied to, that I really, really wanted to study. As a multidisciplinary programme, it deepened my appreciation for literature in all its forms, and the breadth of study on offer allowed me to explore various literary traditions, cultural movements, and political contexts, which equipped me with a nuanced perspective on storytelling. I was able to understand literature not only as an art form but also as a cultural and economic force, and this understanding has shaped my editorial approach. I've been able to navigate the publishing world, and even the start-up world (founders are storytellers, really) with both analytical insight and creative sensitivity.

When I edit, each project is different, requiring a tailored approach that balances the technical with the intuitive, and the seminar style used by my tutors: immersive, engaging, challenging, has helped me approach manuscripts in a similar way.

Whether working with debut authors or seasoned writers, my goal is always the same: to help shape compelling narratives and to support writers in realising the full potential of their stories. Literature is a dialogue—between writer and reader, between past and present— and my degree provided me with the essentials to be part of that ongoing conversation.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



Tom Cornelius (AS '15) is marketing and publicity co-ordinator at Tate Publishing

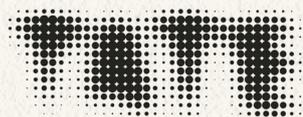
My job, in essence, is to increase sales of Tate-published books. It involves writing press releases and liaising with journalists, organising book launches, designing sales materials, and managing Tate Publishing's social media accounts. I am fortunate to see books go from pitch—when they are just an idea, or a list of linked images—to the finished product. When they are in their early stages, books are sent to my team for feedback based on what we believe will sell. Once a book is completed—a process that can take years—and I find it on my desk gleaming with newness, it is my job to tell people about it, securing reviews, using adverts, and talking with the shop teams about where it ought to be displayed.

For someone who loves art and books my job is a fulfilling one. Broadly speaking, Tate's books fall into two categories. The first,

'trade' titles, is those that are not linked to its public programme but which draw on the museum's collection. This includes artist monographs, art historical accounts, facsimiles, children's picture books, and what are often referred to as 'coffee table' books. The second category is the exhibition books, or 'catalogues', published to coincide with the opening of a Tate exhibition, and for which Tate Publishing is best known.

I am lucky in that my job necessitates being immersed in these books. They are packed into the office, line the walls of bookcases, or perch like birds atop filing cabinets. This is what I love most about going into work. Since I was young, I have enjoyed reading and handling books, and by the time I was studying for my A-Levels, English had become my best subject.

American Studies offered an opportunity to read literature—and to do so alongside history, film, cultural studies, and art history. I was drawn to what I saw as the degree's diversity and its contemporary relevance. The



fact that I could study abroad—which I did at the University of North Carolina—was enticing too.

What my experience at Manchester gave me was a growing appetite for discussion, debate, and research. I honed my writing skills and was introduced to texts and films that I will always love. On and off my course, I made friends who remain among my closest. All these things I am grateful for, and I know that my decision to study here—one based on the course's choice of modules, the University's reputation for academic achievement, and Manchester's cultural offerings—was the right one for me.



After graduating, I felt motivated for another year of study and went to read a Master's in American Literature at the University of Cambridge. While there I realised that art, or more specifically, museums and galleries, was what I really wanted to pursue. I began volunteering at Watts Gallery in Surrey, close to where I grew up. After several

chance meetings with the gallery's curators (volunteering is a great way to get on the radar of an organisation's decision makers), I applied for a job vacancy in the Marketing team and was offered the position. I spent two years at Watts Gallery before applying for my current job, which I started in the summer of 2019.

When thinking about my future, I like to imagine it entails more research, perhaps a PhD, in something with closer ties to art. For now, though, I am content to focus on my role at Tate, learning all I can from the many books with which I am so fortunate to share a space.

In 2021, Tom started a Phd in the History of Art at UCL.

Picture credit Richard Pohle/ The Times

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



Megan Sutherland (HAS '17) is communications and outreach officer for the British Board of Film Classification

The BBFC is an independent content regulator, which helps everyone in the UK choose age-appropriate films, TV, and online content. My role as the agency's communications and outreach officer is an exciting one, spanning several areas of the organization. I work across multiple campaigns throughout the year, liaise with journalists, plan press events, write content and promote the important work the BBFC does generally. I host the BBFC Podcast (www.bbfc.co.uk/about-us/news/podcasts), offering an insider's view of classifications and featuring guest interviews, discussions of age rating decision, and key classification issues. I also work closely with our education department, designing resources for teachers and young people, including informational guides, case studies, and family movie packs. I enjoy being able to help young people think critically about film and to navigate media confidently, and these were two core areas of my degree.

"Studying History and American Studies allowed me to explore different disciplines and topics, and to hone my interest in film."

Studying History and American Studies allowed me to explore different disciplines and topics, and to hone my interest in film. During my time at Manchester, I was also able to study abroad, and the experience made me much more confident. My placement at the University of Maryland campus, in College Park, close to Washington DC, meant I spent lots of time exploring independently. I learned to negotiate better, and adapt to new situations quickly, while also learning a whole new way to study.

Ever since I was young, I've had a keen interest in writing. Prior to entering University, I wrote a regular column for a local magazine, and did placements at a number of marketing and communications departments. Following graduation, I immediately took an admin job in commercial property, where I learned about the production of press releases and content.

All of this was crucial when I interviewed at the BBFC and, along with my degree and film



Classification Guidelines

knowledge, those experiences aided me in getting my current job. In the future, I hope to continue my development within the communications field. I love the creativity and fast paced nature of the profession and would love to advance within the field.

In late 2022, Megan took up a role as Senior Media Officer at the NSPCC

EDUCATION: TEACHING AND MANAGEMENT



Ciara Middleton (AS '14) is assistant manager of Study Abroad at the University of Leeds

Having graduated with a degree in American Studies six years ago, I have worked my way into senior university administration, and am currently Study Abroad Assistant Manager at the University of Leeds. The primary focus of my role is outbound exchange students: placing them on year-long exchange programmes around the world, supporting them prior to and during their international placements, and easing their return to the UK.

I love my role in the Study Abroad Office. Although it does have an administrative focus, it also involves event management, marketing, social media and networking with international colleagues. In addition to these overall responsibilities, my role also has more specific areas of focus. One of these is the University's Horizon Year Abroad programme, which allows students to spend a year in Asia, Israel, or Morocco to study intercultural communication and global citizenship with a particular focus on the host country.

I take the lead in selecting students for placements, allocating individual tasks to members of the team so that we ensure as many students as possible are placed, all at suitable destinations, on a year abroad. This is a complex process but we manage to place the majority of students every year. My role also involves supporting students with a disability or long-term health condition who wish to study abroad, and involves working closely with them, and their host institutions. Additionally, I

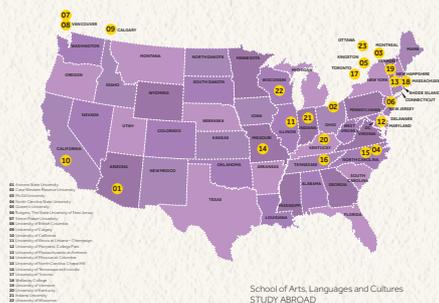
"I distinctly remember sitting in my pre-departure meeting at the University of Manchester prior to departing for Amherst, listening intently to the words of a member of UoM staff member, and thinking "I want that job"!"

oversee all events that are organised for outbound study abroad students throughout the year: from the Study Abroad 101 sessions, addressing those who are just starting the application process; to the wide range of pre-departure events; to the returners' reflection and employability workshops for students re-adjusting to life back in the UK.



Landing a study abroad role after having studied abroad in the US—for a semester at the University of Massachusetts—was of course no accident. I distinctly remember sitting in my pre-departure meeting at the University of Manchester prior to departing for Amherst, listening intently to the words of a UoM staff member, and thinking “I want that job”! I found the time I spent at UMass among the most rewarding and enriching experience of my degree, which only increased my belief that a job within international mobility must be fulfilling.

After graduating, I returned to my hometown of Leeds and quickly discovered that roles in universities are extremely competitive, particularly exciting jobs in student opportunity. Initially, to gain some income, I became a door-to-door fundraiser for different charities. That



experience really improved my confidence and my ability to communicate with ease to people of all backgrounds proved valuable when, seven months after graduating, I got my first job at the University of Leeds as an Administrative Assistant in the Language Centre. From the Language Centre, I moved to Undergraduate Admissions, and then into the Study Abroad Office, admitting and supporting inbound students arriving in Leeds. Since then I have become the Assistant Manager of the team, and the role has offered me some incredible opportunities—from attending conferences across the UK, to delivering a presentation to international colleagues at the Freie University, Berlin. I was also due to complete a tour of study abroad fairs in the major cities of Australia but, because of the pandemic, this will have to wait!

2020 has of course not been an ordinary year and I’ve found myself learning more about crisis management and dealing with uncertainty than anything else! From the Hong Kong protests to the Australian bush fires to the global pandemic, my role requires me to keep a close eye on international incidents in order to support our students internationally. In the future I hope to continue my advancement within international opportunities as I’ve found it to be a hugely rewarding career—though one downside is constantly seeing amazing photos and videos of students in exciting destinations worldwide that gives you an unwavering sense of travel-envy!

In 2023, Ciara became the University of Leeds Plus Programme Lead Officer. The Plus Programme assists students from under-represented backgrounds.

EDUCATION: TEACHING AND MANAGEMENT

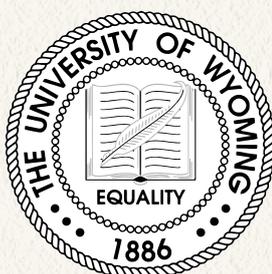


Georgina Mullins (HAS '23) is studying for a Master's in American Studies at the University of Wyoming

I am writing this while completing my summer internship at the office of the Alliance for Historic Wyoming, a statewide historic preservation organisation, in Laramie, Wyoming, US. I am here, following my graduation with a degree in History and American Studies in 2023, undertaking a Master's degree at the University of Wyoming in American Studies with a Minor in Native American Indigenous Studies.

I have been passionate about History since school, and this was greatly nurtured during my time at the University of Manchester. As part of my degree, I completed a second-year undergraduate research project on Buffalo Bill's Wild West, which confirmed my wish to pursue a Master's in American Studies. In my final year, I wrote my Long Essay on Buffalo Bill's Wild West Indigenous performers in Manchester. That project involved scouring contemporary newspapers, books, archives, and even Salford's cemeteries, for anything and everything on Indigenous experience in the city where I had lived for three years.

Working on my dissertation helped me to realise that I was not ready to give up the excitement of research when I graduated. When I saw a tweet by the British Association for American Studies advertising the University of Wyoming's Peter Boyle Graduate Assistantship, it felt like a sign. I'd worked for two years on projects associated with this man, who had fuelled America's 'Wild West' mythology, and had established the town of Cody, WY, and here was an opportunity to continue those studies. I was fortunate to be awarded the Peter Boyle Graduate Assistantship, and as such receive a tuition-fee waiver, a stipend, health insurance, and, after two years, an MA in American Studies.



I moved to Laramie in August 2023, a month after graduating, and began my first semester a few weeks later. I am writing this piece almost one year since arriving in Laramie. This Fall will be my last semester of classes before I defend my thesis in the Spring. I have loved every month.

Moving to the US has been exponentially difficult in a lot of respects, but my classes have been fascinating. During my first year, I was able to take both 'American Indian History to the Twentieth Century' in my Fall semester, as well as an independent study module with Director of Native American and Indigenous Studies Dr. Bridget Groat. Working so closely with Dr. Groat has been crucial in developing my MA thesis on UW as a 'land-grab' university and the current push for tuition-fee waivers for Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone students enrolled at the university. I am set to continue this work closely within the Native American and Indigenous Studies programme through my Graduate Assistantship. Outside of school, I have created strong friendships, with other British exchange students, international students, and Americans. I have even begun to adore small-town Laramie for all of its happy, little charm – even if it gets to around -30 every winter and snows constantly.

I would not ever have considered studying for an MA had I not pursued a BA in History and American Studies at the University of Manchester. Working with unique archival collections at the John Rylands Library during my second year, and receiving extensive support in the curation of my final-year dissertation, as well as being taught by academics who truly know, adore, and believe in their work, encouraged me to feel much the same about academia. The passion, interest, and curiosity I have for this subject was fostered by my undergraduate academic advisor, and by the broader programme of American Studies, and this is the reason I sit here writing this today.

At the end of this summer, I will travel to Cody, Wyoming – about five hours from where I live in Laramie – to visit the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. This is an extensive five museum complex devoted to Cody's life, the show's Indigenous performers, and the 'Wild West' show. In a way, my academic career has truly come full circle and I am eternally grateful to my academic advisor, to the British Association of American Studies, and my current wonderful advisor Dr. Ulrich Adelt, for making it all possible.

Later this year, I will apply to several US and UK-based PhD programmes in American Studies and Indigenous Studies. I hope one day either to teach Indigenous Studies as a professor, or to work with a non-profit organisation on relevant Indigenous and tribal issues here in the US, in mental health, climate change, or land rights.

EDUCATION: TEACHING AND MANAGEMENT



Sam Nero (HAS '19) is Teacher of History and Assistant Head of Year at William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester

I am a Teacher of History and Assistant Head of Year at a large, vibrant secondary school and sixth form, just a short distance from the University of Manchester, where I previously studied. I love teaching, as it allows you to share your passion for a subject, and to influence and improve the lives of young people. Growing up and studying in Manchester, I have only ever wanted to teach in this city, and I hope I can provide the same quality of teaching and support as was offered to me.

After I completed my degree in History and American Studies in 2019, I spent two years working in different graduate roles: working in administration at the Manchester Cancer Research Centre; and then joining the Admissions Team in the School of Social Sciences. Both roles allowed me to develop a broad range of administrative, technical, and interpersonal skills, all of which are crucial in my current job.

My degree also provided a useful training in terms of the practical aspects of teaching, not least because of its breadth. In a standard week, I currently teach every year group, from Year 7 to Year 13, and cover one thousand years of history—from the Norman Conquest through to postwar Britain. At GCSE, we study, among other things, the Russian Revolution and early Elizabethan England. My personal favourite area is teaching A-Level, where I currently lead on the Edexcel Paper, 'The USA 1955 - 92: Conformity and Challenge'. This allows me to utilise all of my American Studies expertise, hopefully inspiring the next generation of Manchester graduates!

One of the most attractive aspects of my degree was the breadth of options and choice across both my joint honours subjects. That variety means that I now have a broad foundation of historical knowledge on which to draw in my own classroom. The analytical and research skills that you develop while studying at Manchester, are also vital for secondary teaching. In each of the disciplines of History and American Studies, you



are required to develop an ability to read large amounts of information and identify what is most useful. This is a key component of any teaching.

The wider opportunities offered through my degree also allowed me to flourish. Taking part in the Study Abroad programme ranks among the best choices I made during my three years at Manchester. During the second year of my degree, I spent a semester studying at the University of Maryland, just outside Washington DC, and the experience changed my life! I interacted with students from all over the world, was exposed to a different way of studying, and I developed confidence and independence.

When I returned to start my final year at Manchester, having the choice across both of my joint-honours subjects meant I was able to undertake a full History thesis. Following what had always been a personal interest, I completed a project around the history of Italian

“One of the most attractive aspects of my degree was the breadth of options and choice across both joint-honours subjects and outside of them as well.”

migration, community and identity in Manchester and London over the twentieth century. This was, again, an unbelievably rewarding experience. As part of the research for this I conducted interviews, visited archives, and created lasting friendships with local historians. Both experiences have left an indelible impact on my teaching. I now run a ‘History and Heritage’ club with KS3, to try and nurture a passion for local history among students at my school. I also frequently utilise my wider knowledge and expertise in American history and politics to ensure my A Level students read around the subject and become active and engaged with it. In the past two years I have also been fortunate to bring these students to various events hosted at the University.

Ultimately, I hope I can inspire the next generation of students to become passionate about History to consider studying it at university; I can think of no better course or location to recommend to them than UoM.

CIVIL SERVICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Alex Deemer (AS '15) is a project manager for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster City Council.

I joined Kensington and Chelsea Council in August 2018, as a Project Manager for the newly-designed Short Breaks Service team. The Short Breaks Service supports children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), providing packages of support including after-school, weekend and holiday activities and home care. I work for a bi-borough service, which consists of over 80 members of staff, across 4 sites.



I work on a wide range of projects, from strategic (service changes), IT (new programs or case management systems), building (site re-fits or improvements), and commissioning (new home care, activity, or disability focused external providers). The role sees me regularly deputizing for the head of service at senior board meetings, lobbying councilors for changes to support SEND children and young people, and being the first point of call for information and requests.

The role gives me amazing variety, and a chance to develop all manner of project-based skills, from leading on projects, to fund raising, and facilitating in a more traditional project manager role. My day-to-day role involves updating the head of service on current projects, ensuring projects are meeting deadlines, setting up meetings for internal staff and suppliers, and chairing meetings. In any week, I'll also attend Adults Services project groups representing disabled children; complete site visits to check the progress of our building work; and update the service's long-term strategy, including analyzing data trends (for example, around ages, disabilities, ethnicity) and think how that could impact our future service. Since working in the post, I have completed some further qualifications in Agile PMP to practitioner level, as well as completing Prince 2 practitioner, the basis of any career in project management.

My degree in American Studies was amazingly diverse. The possibilities of module combinations and mediums to learn in was vast—touching on English, History, Geography, Film Studies, Art, Politics, and Economics. The key skills I learned as a result of my degree were the ability to analyze large amounts of information, and the ability to form a cohesive argument. Whatever career you go into, you have to be able to get your point across, learn, teach, and lead. The skills learned through this course enable you to do all these things, and builds your confidence to express yourself and question others.

After leaving university, I worked for Waltham Forest Council, for two years, mostly in a project assistant role within the Education Business Support Service, which gave

“My degree in American Studies was amazingly diverse. The possibilities of module combinations and mediums to learn in was vast.”

me a great introduction to project work, and local government. During this time, I also began self-funding my own career training, completing a Prince 2 foundation course. As well as working nights at a local petrol station, I also volunteered at a charity called Bridge Builders and supported them in designing content for an app, which helped young people from low-income families and aimed to provide employment advice and guidance. This opportunity allowed me to sit on a board of extremely knowledgeable people, and culminated in me presenting my ideas to Dame Janet Trotter DBE.

In the future, I hope to gain greater management experience, with an aim to become a programme manager for a larger portfolio of projects across whole service areas within local government.

CIVIL SERVICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Meah Worsencroft (ELAS '22) is a Youth Policy Official in the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport

I am a Youth Policy Official at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport within the Civil Service, and mostly deal with targeted youth projects, which offer opportunities for all young people in England to engage in out-of-school activities, get involved in volunteering, and develop new skills. Working in policy is not just about coming up with new strategies—the core component is making sure these programmes happen! As such, my role requires working with stakeholders, evaluating projects, grants management, risk mitigation, and leading on financial processes, such as accruals while maintaining due diligence.

Working in policy has introduced me to new fields of engagement through parliamentary work, preparing ministerial briefings and engaging with both legal and financial matters. This is an opportunity I accessed as a result of all the support I received while completing my university studies, many of which I find continue to shape my current outlook and development.

Prior to joining the Civil Service I completed an MSc in Higher Education at the University of Oxford, and graduated in November 2023. This followed on directly from my undergraduate degree in English Literature and American Studies at the University of Manchester, which I received in July 2022. Both of these degrees enabled me to embrace interdisciplinary approaches, and to examine texts and materials that dealt with questions of social change.

My degree in American Studies set the background for a lot of the policy work I encounter today. In my final year, I studied a module 'Harlem and the State of Urban America,' and thoroughly enjoyed assignments that challenged conventions and allowed me to undertake my own research around African American civic groups which supported young people in the context of New York State's approach to juvenile delinquency in the 1950s. In my current role, I have explored the geographies of anti-social behaviour and youth violence across England in collaboration with the



**Department
for Culture
Media & Sport**

Home Office and Ministry of Justice. This link demonstrates the real-life applicability of much of the course content, and the way in which I was able to tailor my learning to my interests, particularly to issues of social justice and youth and community engagement.

My undergraduate degree allowed me the chance to look at milestone US court cases, such as *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Roe v. Wade*, approaching them through the perspective of the legislation and the wider sociocultural context. Those studies affirmed my decision to work at the centre of where changes were made, and guided me towards my current career in the Civil Service. Education cultivated my commitment to public service and equipped me with the critical interpretive and communicative skills to express my opinions about the contemporary policy landscape. American Studies strengthened my appetite for debate, and increased my confidence in questioning and challenging the status quo.

Outside of my current role, I have continued to access fascinating opportunities. I am currently learning British Sign Language, to increase engagement with deaf job applicants and stakeholders, and I am the co-chair of the department's Social Mobility Network. I have also served as a delegate for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, discussing gender at an international forum. Since arriving in the department, I have undertaken environmental leadership programmes and formed a social action campaign to address the underrepresentation of climate displacement within legal refugee discourse, building on another undergraduate module I took, entitled 'Climate Change and Culture Wars.' This latter module enabled me to understand environmental racism and to critique neoliberalism and the constraints of media communications around the subject of climate change.

During my time at the University of Manchester I volunteered in a number of areas, serving as General Secretary for the English Literature Society, peer mentor to a first-year cohort, a peer buddy during lockdown, and as a careers advisor. These opportunities developed my leadership skills and verbal communication skills, supplementing the knowledge I obtained from my degree to enhance the breadth of learning I took away from the University of Manchester.

I look forward to returning to academia in the future, and I'm most thankful to the American Studies programme for playing such a crucial role in my development, and in shaping my career interests.

ACCOUNTANCY



Tony Scott (HAS '19) is a trainee accountant at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

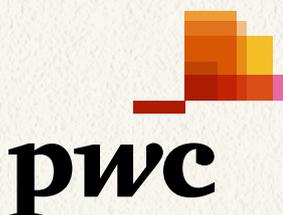
Shortly after graduating in July 2019, I began on the graduate scheme with the financial services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). Part of the 'Big 4' accountancy firms, PwC is an excellent place to start a career in finance. The range of opportunities are unrivalled, and the skills you pick up from an American Studies degree are easily transferable into the work and qualifications offered by the firm.

"The degree also helped to develop my analytical skills, and, I have found that in the era of big data, this skill has become more important than ever."

I currently sit in the large corporates team in the Manchester office. This primarily revolves around assisting corporate clients with technical tax problems—it is not just filling in tax returns, as some might think! As an associate at the firm, my day-to-day tasks revolve around working with several clients, writing reports, data collection, and running draft calculations or analysis. The position exposes me to a wide variety of tax rules and legislation. I have also been fortunate to work with a wide range of businesses—from local family-run companies, to complex global merger and acquisition deals with clients in New York, London, and India.

As part of the graduate scheme, I am required to study and complete the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales' (ICAEW) ACA qualification. This is a series of fifteen exams that usually take place over the course of three years, and covers the disciplines of accounting, taxation, management information, and audit methodology. It is by no means an easy task, and I am currently about halfway through the process. However my degree helped me to develop time management skills and gave me a sense of how best I study outside of the classroom. Much like my degree, the ACA qualification relies largely on your own work ethic.

I studied BA History and American Studies from 2016 to 2019, writing a dissertation on the management of urban light-rail projects, particularly



in the city of Portland, Oregon. While it seems a far departure from my current career, the degree certainly helped me to secure the initial summer internship, during the second year of my course, and my subsequent position on the graduate scheme. The degree also helped to develop my analytical skills, and, I have found that in the era of big data, this skill has become more important than ever in advisory and managerial roles. In my department, clients often want answers to difficult tax questions which are situationally unique to them and can't be answered with a simple 'yes' or 'no' response.

They want you to be able to distil complex legislation, apply it to their situation with references to sources and calculations, and make a judgement on what the best path of action to take is. Contrary to what you might expect, the majority of my department did not do accounting and finance as an undergraduate degree.



While the world of financial services seems far from the humanities, the reality is that companies highly value the transferable 'soft' skills that you develop in degrees such as American Studies. It is definitely a career path to consider if you take this degree, as while it is often tough it can lead to a stable career, with financial benefits to match.

In 2024, Tony took up a role as Fund Tax Manager with Marlborough, a leading investment management group.

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT



Eva Ben-Shlomo (AS '22) is a Resource Manager Research Assistant at MDRC

I took up my current role as Resource Manager / Research Assistant at the US-based non-profit organization MDRC in summer 2023, one year after graduating from Manchester with a degree in American Studies. MDRC conducts social policy research, covering topics such as the criminal justice system, K12, post-secondary education, and families and children. Our main focus is low-income residents, and much of the research we conduct aims to inform policy to support society's most vulnerable groups. We work with the US federal government, charitable foundations, and other groups to bid on proposals, plan projects, organize randomised control trials, and author reports. My role entails budgeting for upcoming projects, managing financial resources, and general project management, overseeing projects that can span anywhere from one year to a decade.

The research element of my work includes writing literature reviews to explore our hypotheses, authoring reports, and editing them. I have written multiple literature reviews, including surveying work on racial disparities in the US criminal justice system, and the use of quantitative methods in measuring social equity outcomes. My passion for such issues began during my undergraduate studies, and I've taken this with me into my professional career.

I studied American Studies at the University of Manchester, where I focused on the histories and implications of race and gender in the United States. The programme at Manchester set me up to think critically about social movements, marginalized groups, and the implications of inequity throughout history and into the present. My final-year dissertation, for example, looked at the relationship between colourism and cosmetics for black women in the 1960s US.

After I graduated in July 2022, I immediately took up a summer internship in New York City, working at MDRC as a Research Associate. I had heard about MDRC through a friend of a friend, and found out more via LinkedIn.

I used the MDRC website to speak with existing employees and applied for a short-term internship during my final semester. After going through a few rounds of interviews, I was successful! The internship was a really positive experience, and it immediately threw me in at the deep end of graduate employment.

When I finished that internship, I returned to London and took up a role as the Social Action Coordinator at Middlesex University Students' Union. This was a nice transition as I had spent time during university working in multiple roles for

The programme at Manchester set me up to think critically about social movements, marginalized groups, and the implications of inequity throughout history and into the present.

Manchester Students' Union. I served as the SU's Social Action Coordinator, leading the 'Embedding Social Action within the Curriculum' programme, and extending this initiative to the London Sports Institute. This involved creating content on anti-discrimination and equality theory, and delivering a series of workshops to undergraduate students. After 6 months, I was promoted to the Manager of the Networks and Social Action team. My team ran projects that targeted improved attainment for disadvantaged students. I became heavily involved in strategic planning for the organization in relation to DEI programming and policy, and sat on several committees. Working in London in a manager role soon after I had graduated was definitely a challenge, but it elevated my resilience and confidence. It made me go for bigger and better roles and empowered me to reach higher professionally.

In summer 2023, I moved permanently to New York City, and took up my current position. I felt it was important to do this, as I had lost the opportunity to study abroad during the pandemic, and living in New York had always been a personal goal. Part of my family is from Massachusetts, so I had grown up familiar with America's East Coast.

Looking ahead, I am excited to advance my career in the US, and in particular to look for opportunities in America's post-secondary education field. Having already worked in the UK context, as well as building expertise in US education systems, through my current position, this feels like an appropriate next step. In coming years, I hope to move into a policy or senior administrative space, where I can see through the process of designing and implementing programmes that improve the experiences of students.

SCHOOL OF ARTS, LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

OXFORD RD

MANCHESTER

M13 9PL

WWW.ALC.MANCHESTER.AC.UK/AMERICAN-STUDIES



@AMER_UOM