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The University of Manchester

Healthcare Ethics and Law (Part-time, online)

An Interview with...

Tony Little

Healthcare Educator and
Researcher



Continuous learning has been a life goal for Tony Little. Considering himself a constant student, he wishes to satisfy his intellectual curiosity by immersing in ethical healthcare issues.

His passion for learning and developing critical analysis skills led him to choose the Healthcare Ethics and Law online course.

With his improved writing and argumentation skills, Tony hopes to inspire and help his students at the Centre of Nanoscience and Technology in China with their own research.

ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN HEALTHCARE

"Thinking about the line between an individual's autonomy and the benefit of the public good is a dilemma that I wanted to explore in greater depth," Tony tells us.

Having an undergraduate degree in genetics and a master's in infectious diseases, Tony wanted to delve into the social and ethical context of healthcare. "Before, I focused mainly on the biological and the molecular side of things, but I wanted to get into the heart of ethical and legal issues," he says.

His desire to engage with ethical issues stems from his passion to discover the reasons behind actions. Tony is particularly interested in ethical issues around malaria research. He wants to be involved with a malaria research group in Thailand, which use mass drug administration to eliminate a particular type of malaria. Through studying this course, he hopes to framework his ideas into a structured research question.

INTELLECTUAL AMBITIONS

Driven by intellectual appetite, Tony states: "This course provides me with an opportunity to engage with topics I am enthusiastic about and to develop my critical thinking and argumentation skills." What really matters to Tony is the freedom to explore his passions and interests.

Living in and out of the UK for the last 15 years, Tony currently works as a teacher at a university in China, but says that "unofficially, he doesn't teach at all." He helps scientists with their research skills, referencing, extracting and reporting information, and formulating arguments.

Over the years, he realised that many of his students, as well as himself, lack critical analysis skills such as logical reasoning and argumentation. The course helps him develop these skills and apply his learning into his teaching. "Now, I am constantly probing my students - I am asking them what the purpose and the function of their essays are".

"I've chosen this life – I am a constant student! My life is studying, and my job enables me to enjoy my life. If I have any free time, I will spend it on studying and exercising. I enjoy exercising both my mind and body, and that is what I want to focus on."

BALANCING WORK AND STUDIES

Choosing a job that offers him enough free time enables Tony to pursue what he is passionate about. As he says, "doing a master's is a full commitment, especially when someone wants to perform to the best of their ability and achieve higher grades, but the reward is worth it."

However, finding a good balance between studying and working full-time is challenging. Taking advantage of the flexibility of the course in terms of its online delivery, the flexible assessment dates, and the choice of topics for the dissertation is critical.

To be able to do both, Tony states that planning is key. He advises prospective students to identify slots in their diary and, if possible, plan a whole year or semester in advance. Tony also benefited from the continuous support of the course administrators and encourages everyone to seek this extra help.

NEW LEARNING PATHS

Studying the master's in healthcare ethics and law is exactly what Tony expected. "I am ticking all the boxes with this course. I am filling my knowledge gaps, I am developing my writing skills, and I am doing it through topics I am passionate about." The course content, coupled with the flexibility of the assessments and affordability made me choose the course in the first place," he explains.

Getting valuable feedback from the course lecturers is also a game-changer for Tony. "I feel more confident in structuring my arguments," he admits. Improving his writing skills helped Tony reach a new learning curve and now, he is ready to take the next step. Tony plans to publish his dissertation and is looking to start a third master's in epidemiology while considering pursuing a PhD.

GET IN TOUCH

Email us to arrange a personal consultation

Email: studyonline@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/healthcare-ethics-law

