

## **Testimonials from Alumni of the Diplomatic Academy of London**

When we started the diplomatic studies programme in 1980, Diplomacy was a minor branch of International Relations. Today through our courses, activities and vision, Diplomacy has become a discipline unto itself, and this achievement is recognised by many professionals and scholars as innovative in the field.

The following letter from the High Commissioner for Grenada about the impact of the Course on her career development is axiomatic:

The University of Westminster has played a significant role in the development of my career. In 1989 I was privileged to be part of a Commonwealth Small States Training Programme at the Diplomatic Academy. Lectures were given in Management, Diplomacy, Communications and general survival skills for Foreign Service officers. This was my first encounter with the University and I have followed its progress since then.

My decision to enrol in the MA programme in Diplomatic Studies stemmed from meeting Professor Ayad in 1989 and Management Lecturer, David Rees.

There is a new type of diplomacy now in action and it is imperative that diplomats, irrespective of their age or gender be given the opportunity to bring themselves in line with the new information technology available. E-diplomacy is much talked about as a means towards an end – the end being the availability of the required technology and the knowledge to be able to use it to the best advantage of one's country. Heads of Missions are all cognizant of the fact that communication is one of the most important tools of diplomacy. What good is the new technology if diplomats are unable to use it to improve their country's image abroad?

The University of Westminster has taken pains to impart communication skills to diplomats and I have learnt more about communication and how to use it effectively during my sojourn at Westminster than at any time during my career. The symposiums, which are conducted every other year, provide a great opportunity to bring home these very important aspects of diplomacy – i.e. communication and gender. The 2003 symposium presented an opportunity to discuss and impart my own story to members of the faculty and the student body. I am indeed honoured to have passed through the walls of Westminster and would continue to offer my support in whatever way possible and to encourage young and upcoming diplomats to take advantage of this very unique and worthwhile opportunity.

### **Ruth Elizabeth Rouse**

High Commissioner for Grenada to the Court of St James's  
Non-resident High Commissioner to the Republic of South Africa and  
non-resident ,High Commissioner (designate) to the Republic of Nigeria.  
July 13 2003

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The following testimonials from alumni indicate how the programme has contributed to their personal and career development:

“Dear Professor Ayad

I am always glad to recall memories of the enjoyable days spent at DAL. Since 1995, I have

held posts in Washington (DCM) and now in Helsinki (Ambassador). For several years I have also chaired the Board of the Institute for International Relations in Zagreb. At the Foreign Ministry I have worked for a few years as the Assistant Minister for Europe (DG). As a true believer in life-long learning I also obtained a PhD from King's College London, proof that DAL was an excellent learning environment and a great impetus to further my diplomatic career. Thank you for your mentorship and my congratulations for your decades-long leadership and vision of how to bring well-educated, skilful and knowledgeable diplomats to the increasingly more complex world diplomatic scene”.

**HE Dr Damir Kusen, Croatian Ambassador to Finland**

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“In my position as High Commissioner, I had to look at a number of institutions of high learning to determine which one offered the best training for both serving diplomats and those wishing to obtain good qualifications in Diplomatic Studies. The Diplomatic Academy of London ... was to me, as an eye opener . It is therefore no wonder that the Academy has students not only from Britain but from about sixty other countries covering all the continents of the world.

One advantage that the University has probably over many other institutions of high learning in training diplomats is the effective combination of theory and practice. The simulation exercises, regular contacts with key players whether senior government officials in Britain or High Commissioners/Ambassadors resident in London and the guided visits to other important centres like Brussels and Geneva all make graduates leave the University well equipped as if they had the necessary experience

**“HE Mr Love Mtesa , High Commissioner for Zambia to the Court of St James’s**

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“I was pleasantly surprised at how directly relevant much of the course work is to my duties, for instance in the running of a diplomatic mission and on matters of protocol, not to mention the discipline of management, without which a diplomat cannot be truly successful... I would recommend the course both for those in the service and for those wishing to know more about diplomatic practice and related disciplines”.

**HE Chris Grima, Maltese Ambassador of Malta to Austria**

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..I am pleased to report that successfully completing my education and presenting my dissertation allowed me to be promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize to full Ambassadorship...My participation in your programme allowed me to build up a network within the diplomatic community.

**HE Alexander Piletsky, Ambassador of Belize to Austria**

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“I am writing to you to express my gratitude for the two years of MA studies at the Diplomatic Academy of London. They were of the utmost importance and help in my career as a diplomat.

They’ve allowed me first to obtain a quick promotion since, directly afterwards, I was appointed as Deputy Permanent Delegate of Lebanon at United Nations Education Sciences and Culture Organisation known as UNESCO. That was actually my second posting abroad.

Secondly, these studies provided me with the real possibility of interacting in an international community since all students came from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds.

Finally it sensibilised me to new issues, such as technology and management which proved to be essential for any modern diplomat.

**Ms Carla Jazzar, Deputy Head of Mission, Lebanese Embassy**

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“The Diplomatic Academy of London has enabled me to view the global outlook from different lenses of analyses. Prior to my diplomatic studies, I used to view the world through a diplomatic mirror, during my studies, I learnt how to secure vantage point from where to take a best photo shot of the globe. Information Technology was not my best top of discussion, but now I have become a technophile. The Diplomatic Academy is pathfinder for those diplomats who wish to explore new diplomatic landscape of the 21st century, to survive in the 21st century landscape, we have to possess the knowledge and skills of how to use its road maps. The Diplomatic Academy is the best institution to provide modern diplomats with skills and knowledge. In the 21st century and third millennium, there is no doubt that survival of the fittest will become a rule rather than exception. The contradictions resulting from coexistence of several value systems will require an in depth analyses of international security of the 21st century. Besides Academic progression, my diplomatic career also progressed, after obtaining an MA in diplomatic studies I was posted to the Namibian Embassy in Paris as Deputy head of Mission and Deputy Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. The Diplomatic Academy of London provides tools to enable diplomats to tame the many headed global hydra monster”.

**HE Dr Jeroboam Shaanika , Deputy Head of Department of Multilateral Relations, Namibian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

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‘My experience at DAL was truly rewarding in that it prepared me for the political and cultural challenges of working as a diplomat inside a high level security U.S. Embassy post. The DAL courses taught by actual diplomats provided real life scenarios for proactive and immediate decision-making and damage control. Additionally, the team project exercises and challenges working with various nationalities, age groups and experience bases prepared me for focused participation in the Ambassador’s county team meetings, and trade negotiations and bilateral advocacy meetings with ministries and heads of states. I regularly draw upon my management and diversity training at DAL in my day-to -day management of the local Embassy staff and interactions with the political, military and public relation sections in the Embassy and the private sector multinationals. I know this DAL training will be an asset for my next post at the African Development Bank.’

**Ms Tanya L Cole, Commercial Attaché, US Commercial Service, US Embassy, Bogotá**

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“The Diplomatic Academy of London is an institution of higher learning that encourages open and vigorous debate on the most pressing issues of our time. It allowed my colleagues and me to fully express ourselves and to learn not only by formal instruction but through dialogue, the foundation for all diplomacy. The opportunities to visit international institutions added depth, color, and vitality to the theories, which we studied. These interesting and

enjoyable events gave me firsthand knowledge of how these bodies function and only added to my ommitment to remain active and informed about global politics, international law, and human rights issues”.

**Dr Paul Aranas, Field Coordinator, 2008 Ralph Nader US Presidential Campaign, Chicago, IL 2006 Green Party Nominee, US House of Representatives, Oregon 5th District**

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The Course in its entirety provided a wealth of knowledge with clarity and style that offers a deep insight into diplomacy and related subjects.

**V A Jones, Sierra Leone High Commission, London**

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Since leaving the university I have mainly been working with analysis in regulatory issues in the telecom/IT/media sector. Amazing how ahead of everybody else you were back in 96/97!

**Monica Andersen, Research Analyst, Telenor AS, Norway**

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