



SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

MSc in Major Programme Management Scholar Profiles

2019-20



Farah Chatila

MSc in Major Programme Management Scholarship for Women (2019-2021)

Country of nationality: Lebanon

Sector: Banking & Finance

Born and raised in Beirut, Farah attended a multicultural school which gave her the opportunity from a young age to interact and learn from a wide variety of cultures and heritages. During her school years she participated in several team sports such as basketball and football. She completed her bachelor's degree in business administration and master's degree in finance at the American University of Beirut.

Farah is currently the Assistant Head of Group Remedial Banking and Real Estate at Bankmed, where her main duties include managing the Bank's non-performing loans and foreclosed assets portfolio, in addition to other corporate finance tasks.

In 2016, she was offered by the bank to take part in INSEAD's Management Acceleration Programme, where she was the youngest in her cohort. In her free time she enjoys exploring culinary experiences, searching for the best coffee in town, working out and listening to music.

Regarding the programme and scholarship, Farah writes:

"Given the transformational stage Lebanon is currently in, I believe the MMPM will provide me with insights and experiences that the country needs in order to successfully implement large scale projects that are currently in the pipeline. Furthermore, as the programme is a part-time programme I will be able to continue focusing on and developing my professional career. This degree, with the support of the Women's Scholarship, as well as the interactions with the professors and colleagues, at Saïd Business School will equip me with the required knowledge needed to excel in my current and future roles."



Moira McCarthy

MSc in Major Programme Management Scholarship for Women (2019-2021)

Country of nationality: USA

Sector: Defence & Cyber Security

Moira is a Principal Cybersecurity Engineer with the MITRE Corporation and a Captain in the United States Navy Reserve. She has spent most of her career working in the national security sector, with the past seven years focused on cyber strategy and policy development, international engagement, and counterterrorism. She has led projects across a range of strategy and policy areas for the U.S. Navy, the U.S. intelligence community, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of State, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. She has also been a guest lecturer at Old Dominion University and a leadership and ethics instructor for the Naval Leadership and Ethics Center.

As a Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve Moira is currently serving as the Commanding Officer, Navy Reserve, Navy Installations Command Headquarters in Washington DC where she is responsible for a 3,500 person Reserve enterprise. During her time in the Navy Reserve Moira has returned to active duty multiple times including a three-year mobilisation after September 11, 2001 when she served as the Homeland Security/Homeland Defense Operations and Plans Officer for the U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Moira's legal career includes time as a staff attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida where she conducted impartial analysis of trial and sentencing transcripts to determine if sufficient facts existed for the Court to rule on whether an inmate, pre-trial detainee, or other litigant was entitled to post conviction relief, re-sentencing, or review. A member in good standing of the Florida BAR, Moira holds a Juris Doctor with a concentration in International Law from California Western School of Law, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies (with distinction) from the U.S. Naval War College, and received a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from George Washington University.

Regarding the scholarship Moira writes:

"I am thrilled and honoured to be awarded the MSc in Major Programme Management Scholarship for Women. It is a supreme vote of confidence in my potential and a show of trust on the scholarship committee's part in my ability to lead major programmes. I am excited to represent the School and the programme because its values are in alignment with the Navy and MITRE values I have embraced for years. This programme offers me the opportunity to develop a more structured framework for applying the practical skills I have developed throughout my career and benefit from the multi-national perspectives of my colleagues. I look forward to learning from them and the MMPM faculty and am very excited to be joining the Oxford community."



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 MPPM 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.'



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 problems.

'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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