

ALICIA MORRIS

TTS STUDENT: 1997-2001

Current role: University of Queensland - Regional Manager (Europe and West Africa)

Career pathway:

I studied for a degree in Chinese and French at the University of Leeds and completed a Chartered Institute of Marketing Professional Diploma and Professional Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing. I then worked at the University of Wolverhampton for 4 years and the University of Birmingham for just under 3 years as an International Officer, recruiting international students. Since October 2014 I have been working from home as a Regional Manager for the University of Queensland, Australia and travel regularly to Australia and countries in Europe and West Africa.

Advice for students:

Study abroad as part of your degree and try to learn a language, even if it is just a little bit. These things will make you more employable in any field of work, but particularly in student recruitment. Students are more likely to trust you if you have been an international student yourself, and you can really appreciate the excitement and stresses that they are going through when they are applying and getting ready to leave their home country.

To do this job well you have to be completely open-minded and adaptable to other cultures and practices - in some countries you have to be extremely punctual and professional and in others you have to be very easy-going when things are running late or when people want to do business in a relaxed environment. You also have to be able to start a conversation with everyone you meet, even if they struggle to speak English, and deliver presentations - sometimes to huge audiences - so confidence is very important.

Best memory of your time at Thomas Telford?

Playing trombone in various concerts and picking up my GCSE results!

