

Danusa Nascimento – Brazil – Short Course Student (Sept 2013 – March 2014)

- 1) Can you tell us a little bit about your (professional) background before you came to Nottingham?

I have over fifteen years' experience leading complex projects, for the last seven years I have dedicated my career to the social responsibility and sustainability fields and their challenges. I work as a consultant for the corporate sector and not-for-profit organizations. I provide them with strategic support on ways to accelerate the take-up of social responsibility in their activities, thus leveraging their strengths into social change.

I also have a strong interest in being immersed in and understanding different cultures. In recent years I have had the opportunity to experience this while visiting communities, social projects and NGOs in several countries. Before coming to Nottingham, I spent almost three years working in the Middle East at the Sultanate of Oman where I supported three large companies to create the first Tripartite Foundation in the country. This role included providing initial strategic planning development, project governance and the establishment of the key focus areas and subsequent social projects.

The projects I have been working on so far are usually very challenging. Thus, I frequently reflect upon my personal and professional history and skills, prompting me to undertake a course to deepen my knowledge and understanding of international human rights law and its mechanisms.

- 2) What factors made you choose Human Rights Law Centre's short course?

I looked for a course that could provide me with a combination of theory and practice. As I do not have a degree in Law I knew it would be a challenging environment for me. I chose the Human Rights Law Centre because it is an internationally recognized human rights institution with a strong reputation in providing short courses and capacity programmes.

I was also keen on the fact that, in addition to the General Course, I would be able to attend LLM modules that would allow me to interact with LLM students from many countries worldwide. I expected that different cultural perspectives from the postgraduate student community would enrich the discussions and case studies and that I would be able to connect them with my experiences in the field.

- 3) What is your overall opinion of the course?

I believe the course is well structured with highly qualified Professors and Lecturers, providing a good balance between practitioner and academic experience. I learnt a lot and I look forward to applying the acquired knowledge to my next assignment. After the 3-month short course, I decided to stay for another period for a supervised research project. Although I was interested in many different issues, I chose to research about the responsibility and accountability of businesses with regards to human rights.

The combination of the Short Course with the supervised research was successful. The short course covered the breadth of international human rights standards and systems, and the research

provided me with a specific knowledge on human rights related to my professional experience in the private sector. I finished the course feeling that I had accomplished my objectives.

4) What is the most valuable aspect of the course that you will be taking with you?

There were many valuable aspects, but I would say that the most valuable one for me was being present in an international postgraduate community. I had the chance to learn a lot from colleagues, professors, lecturers, and guest speakers, from different backgrounds and nationalities.

I would like to thank the Human Rights Law Centre and its staff very much for their support.