

Our MPA students are a diverse and interesting group of people. In the next few months, we will be featuring profiles of some of these students, who will tell us a bit about where they are from, their education, their experience in the MPA program, their career aspirations and what they do in their spare time.

*Where are you from?*

I was born in South Africa. I can trace my heritage back to 1682, when my ancestors arrived in the Cape of Good Hope along with other Dutch Huguenots to settle the refueling station needed by the Dutch East India Company for ships travelling en-route to India. My family immigrated to Canada in 1999 and eventually settled in rural Manitoba.

*Tell us a bit about your undergrad education.*

*Are there any MPA courses you find particularly interesting and/or useful? Why?*

Because the material covered is directly related to my work, the Local Public Administration and Housing Policy Courses have been a highlight for me.

*Has there been a particular MPA course/experience/prof that has inspired you in some special way?*

Professor Levasseur has been a great professor and inspiration in my MPA studies. She consistently delivers practical examples from her own background in a way that enhances student comprehension and keeps course material relatable and entertaining.

*What is your dream job?*

*As a part-time student who has not yet started on a career, how do you plan to apply the skills you learn here?*

I am learning skills that have already helped me in my present part-time work, such as problem-solving and communicating with individuals. The MPA program is great in that it teaches you skills that you can use in any job, every day. In the future, I aspire to be able to solve problems and to resolve very tough issues, no matter what job I am doing. The MPA program is giving me the tools to be able to do this.

*What has your experience been like, moving to Winnipeg to study? Do you have any advice for other students who may be thinking of taking the MPA program here?*

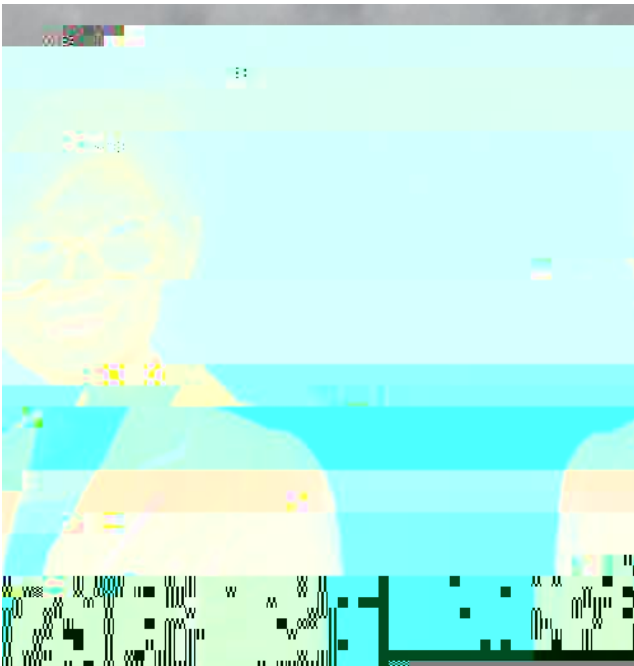
Winnipeg is a beautiful town. It has so much culture and lots of different - and very good - things to do here, like visiting ice castles and skating on the Red River for kilometres. You need to embrace it and just appreciate how different Winnipeg is from other places!

*What is your dream job?*

I wish I could say what my dream job is. Working for the UN would be really cool, or maybe even Interpol. But working in Ottawa, at the centre of the federal government, in those beautiful buildings, would be equally amazing.

*Assuming you have any, what do you like to do in your spare time?*

I play the piano and I truly love it. I also love to ski and hope to heli-ski one day. To relax, I watch my favourite TV show, *How I Met Your Mother* show.



*Tell us a bit about your country of origin.*

I am from Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China. I have been in Winnipeg for two and a half years, and prior to that, in the US for three years, where my husband still works.

China is a country that has developed rapidly in the past ten years. The culture is very different from Western countries, of course, and especially in the area of public policy and governance. China is very unique because of its history, traditions and its people.

*Tell us a bit about your previous university education.*

*How far along are you in the MPA Program, and are you full-time or part-time?*

I earned my bachelor's degree in Business Administration in Changsha, Hunan Province, China in 2012. After graduation, I went to Rochester Institute of Technology for graduate studies in Human Resource Development. This is my third year as a full-

time MPA student.

*Do you work part-time and, if so, what do you do?*

I work on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at Manitoba Housing, which is part of my MPA Co-op position.

*What attracted you to the MPA program?*

While doing graduate studies in Human Resources in the US, I developed an interest in analyzing labor relations and policies. In 2015, I decided to further my studies in this by applying to the MPA Program.

*Are there any MPA courses you find particularly interesting and/or useful? Why?*

There are a lot of MPA courses I find interesting and very useful. One in particular is Theories and Issues in Public

Administration, taught by Dr. Andrea Rounce. My classmates have different background, such as in aviation, crown companies, government, and media. Dr. Rounce also has invited guest speakers who work in the government. At the start of every class, w