

My name is Mr Almamy Cheick CAMARA, alumnus of The Oxford College of Arts, Social Work Department, batch 2016-2018. I come from Mali, a country in West Africa.

I have very good memories of my years at Oxford College of Arts, especially in the Social Work department, within a very close-knit class: whether it be group work or after-work parties, I find it more enjoyable to be in a smaller group of students.

From an academic point of view, the most remarkable points were the immersion in the first year and the different orientation visits that we made.

## My opinion on the Social Work Department:

There was also added value to the MSW training, because the main interest of the course lay, in my opinion, in the development of a professional attitude and in the acquisition of "soft skills" with courses given by professionals in the sector, which subsequently enabled me to put this knowledge into practice via the internships, which enabled me to really move away from the theory of the courses and to confront myself with the reality of the working world.

## My opinion on the College:

Firstly, I personally noticed two points that make a real difference between The Oxford College of Arts and other colleges, and that is the professionalism and the strong sense of responsibility of its teaching staff.

Secondly, the fact that the teaching staff is partly made up of professionals makes for a much richer exchange of ideas and a departure from the traditional academic framework. And this is where I think The Oxford College of Arts also stands out.

## My advice to my juniors:

I end with this humble advice to my juniors

As with all higher education courses, the course is only as professional as the investment made by the student: it is not enough to be satisfied with the university courses, but to make the most of the work placements in order to develop professional skills.

I'm speaking especially for those who want to go into social work professions and its various options: be humble, be curious, show that you are there to learn.

Always find ways to put your knowledge into practice, this will enrich you professionally and will probably open you up to new perspectives later on!

## My thanks:

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to ICCR, to my faculty especially Dr. Shashidhar, Mr. Naveen Reddy and Mrs. Ashwini, to all the staff of the College and of course to the Principal of Oxford College of Arts.