Alice Mates

Executive Assistant - providing comprehensive administrative support to the Pro Vice Chancellor, as well as undertaking a variety of strategic projects on behalf of the College.

What does International Women’s Day mean to you?

It provides an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the achievements of womankind.

What challenges, if any, have you experienced as a woman in your studies or at work?

I don’t consider that I have experienced any challenges due to my gender whilst studying - achieving a BA and more recently a CIM qualification without facing any discrimination. In my work, again, nothing particularly noticeable - although I feel that administration, particularly the role of PA/EA tends to be viewed as a typically female career path.

What would you like to see in the future with regards to women in the workplace?

More women at the ‘top’ and equal pay for men and women who have the same job roles.

What advice would you give to girls and young women about their future careers?

Do something that you enjoy - believe that you can be whatever you want to be.

Tell us about a woman who has inspired you and why

A movement rather than one particular woman - the Suffragettes who earned women the right to vote in the UK. From peaceful protest, to hunger strikes and active demonstrations these women (from across the class system) brought and kept women’s suffrage in the limelight. Having the vote has allowed millions of women to play a positive contribution in our democracy and paved the way for women in politics.