

30 STORIES OF SERVICE

JOINT JAPAN WORLD BANK Graduate Scholarship Program

MEET AUGUSTUS CADETTE,
SAINT LUCIA
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO (2010), USA

What motivated you to pursue a career in a development-related field?

An ardent desire to contribute to human well-being and the upliftment of my country, coupled with a deep-seated belief in and fascination with, the often-unacknowledged scientific nature of social development.

How has the JJWBGSP helped you contribute to your country once you have completed your program?

I immediately began to employ many of the skill sets that I acquired during my 2-year stint at University of Chicago, including hard-nosed data analysis, as well as approaches to the analysis and formulation of public policy. Additionally, within the Department I championed capacity building in the areas of public policy analysis, research and evidence-based policy formulation as well as in the design of evidence-grounded programs.

After 15 months of serving as officer-in-charge of the Social Research Unit, I interviewed successfully for the post of Deputy Director of Social Transformation and Head of the Social Research Unit. I have the distinct feeling that my success at securing this senior management position was primarily due to a recognition of the work that I had done within the Unit, the ability to do which was in no small measure the result of my JJWBGSP-sponsored training at University of Chicago.



I continued to provide management and technical leadership to the Unit, until I was promoted, 22 months later, to the post of Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social Transformation (and since June 2016, in the Ministry of Agriculture). The post of Deputy Permanent Secretary is the second most senior position within the Public Service of Saint Lucia. In that post I have continued to employ some of the very relevant skill sets that I acquired through my JJWBGSP-funded studies at the University of Chicago. Indeed, I believe that these skill sets, along with leadership training provided by the World Bank as part of the JJWBGSP and the Chicago experience generally have all contributed tremendously to the professional ascendancy that I have achieved to date.

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Why do you think you were awarded a JJWBGSP scholarship?

I think I was awarded a JJWBGSP scholarship because of what I had presented to the selection committee, not merely in terms of a solid track record of development leadership and relevant academic achievement, but in terms of the prospects which I offered for future leadership in spurring the development of my country.



What did you learn about yourself during your experience?

After I had successfully completed my 2 years at the University of Chicago and had been awarded my master's degree, I reflected on the achievement. Upon that reflection I became more convinced than ever before of my ability to surmount life's hurdles, even when they appear as insurmountable as paying for and successfully completing a master's degree at one of the world's leading universities were to me.

For more stories from JJWBGSP recipients follow #30StoriesofService. To apply, visit: www.worldbank.org.

What was the most rewarding and challenging part of your study abroad experience?

I am tempted to say that the most rewarding part of my 2 years of study abroad was the intellectual stimulation that was always present at the University of Chicago. However, I would have to admit that indeed it was the sheer magnitude of approaches to the analysis of public policy that I learnt at UChicago; as well as the relevance, immediacy and hard-nosed nature of the skill sets that I appropriated.

In terms of my greatest challenge, I would say that despite having made many exceedingly close friendships at University of Chicago, my greatest challenge was coping with being away from my family, especially my last son, Fidel, who was only 8 months old upon my departure. So I missed a couple of the formative years of his life.

As an alumnus, advice would you offer to others who are considering applying for the JJWBGSP?

If anyone out there is interested in pursuing a development-related program of studies at the graduate level, I would encourage you, without any reservation whatsoever, to apply to the JJWBGSP. It is a full and valuable scholarship which also comes with capacity-building activities, organized by the World Bank, for enhancing the capacity of scholars to provide development leadership. Additionally, the scholarship is tenable at some of the best universities in the world. A JJWBGSP is an opportunity worth fighting hard for. So prepare your applications meticulously!

Applicants need to ensure that they accentuate their achievements in the development of their country and how their academic area of interest will contribute to their professional development and enhance their capacity to expedite development in their country.