

## **My PLA Experience**

*Submitted by Andrew Dawson, former student*

**Prior Learning and Portfolio Development/Assessment Course:  
PLPD001 for Matriculation**



*"It is by education that we become prepared for our duties and responsibilities in life. If one is badly educated he must naturally fail in the proper assumption and practice of his duties and responsibilities."* — Marcus Garvey.

I was honored to be enrolled in the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) programme at The University of West Indies (UWI) Open Campus in Semester 1 (2017/2018). My first reaction towards this programme was a bit skeptical, for I never experienced a programme of this nature. I had been out of the school system for the past 12 years. It was all new to me and I never pursued online learning before. I buckled up my shoes and went in with confidence that I will be able to work out whatever was set to be accomplished. I was then introduced to the well organized and proactive team from The UWI Open Campus that guided me throughout the entire process. I can say with confidence that the PLA team went above and beyond to make my PLA journey a success.

I was able to prove to the assessors of the PLPD001 course for Matriculation (admission to the Open Campus) that I was competent to pursue the BSc Youth Development Work programme. This in itself was a great accomplishment for me. I am forever grateful to The UWI Open Campus for the opportunity to prove that knowledge obtained from personal experience, workshops, training, and any other relevant knowledge acquired along the way, could be used to assist in furthering one's education. I can say that all this knowledge acquired became the foundation for creating my prior learning portfolio. The experience was one that I continue to cherish. I must recognize and thank the PLA team for assisting in whatever way necessary.  
**PLA has changed my life for the better!**

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