

**Ijeoma Okoye****Masters in International Commercial Law / 2008****Manager, Contract Standards and Risk Management at Citgo Petroleum Corporation****Please can you describe your role?**

I work in the Procurement department for my company and part of my responsibilities cover managing and contract negotiations, review and drafting of contracts and acting as liaison between my team and the various departments functions i.e., Legal, Risk and Operations. I advice on the best commercial options or approach in any given transaction.

**What experiences do you think have proved beneficial to your career journey?**

My Master's program itself and the courses that I took. As a foreign trained barrister from Nigeria, I had been looking forward to working in the oil and gas industry. My program prepared me for this journey.

**What impact did the 2008 financial crash have on your career path?**

After my Master's program, like everyone else, I experienced some delays in getting into my core career path. After I moved to the US from Aberdeen, I was still determined despite the odds of being in a different geographic location, to get into the oil and gas industry. I however continued to apply and post my CV in different job forums and by the grace of God, was able to get into the career path I wanted to get into.

**What advice would you give to students thinking about employment in your field?**

The employment market may seem scary and impossible to get into at the moment because of the current events going on globally with the Coronavirus pandemic and the bleak employment options, but be steadfast, never doubt your potentials. Your education has put you in a very good place already, remain steadfast in your search, take up any available opportunities you can get at the moment but still keep your eyes on the ball and in your future. The experience is still worthwhile.

**Is there any other advice you would like to give to current students moving from university to working life?**

Never give up, keep pushing and believe in who you want to be and the race ahead, you'll surely make it.