

**Reader in Communication Disability  
and Development  
Manchester Metropolitan University**



**Julie Marshall**

**What does your current role involve?**

I carry out research (into services for people with communication disability in low and middle income countries (LMICs) and about cultural competence). I teach SLT students and I support other staff in our Faculty to do research.

**What was your first role after graduating?**

I worked in a, mainly paediatric, clinical SLT post in Trafford, Manchester.

**At what stage did you decide which area of the profession you wanted to work in?**

Over the first three years of work, I decided I wanted to work in a LMIC and my interest in university teaching sprang from that.

**How did you progress from your first role to your current job?**

I worked for a small NGO in Tanzania for a couple of years. I then worked in universities and, as part of my university work, I was lucky to be able to do research and then training and service development work, internationally, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa.

**How have you used CPD to help you progress in your career?**

I helped to start Communication Therapy International (CTI), which has provided me with lots of input & ideas over the years. I tried to get CPD opportunities that would provide me with skills & knowledge I could use both in the UK & in LMICs.

**My advice to students looking to get into my current area of work:**  
If you want to work in LMICs, get a good clinical base in the UK first. Then, read all you can about development issues, & about culture. Find out who else has done similar work and read about, talk to, meet people who have worked internationally. Join CTI. Try and work with culturally mixed communities in the UK and then you can get relevant experience here & sell your international experience to your UK manager!

<https://communicationtherapyinternational.org>

For info about Julie's work: <https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/hpsc/our-staff/search/profile/?id=733>