

Inspirational quotes from other participants of 80 Women, 80 years, 80 stories project

Former British Council employees: (in alphabetical order)

Ayşegül Gürerk: The British Council was much more than a workplace for me. It helped me reshape my career and enabled me to discover myself as a person and as a professional.

Fatma Şahin: I can't say enough how British Council enlarged my vision but the most important of all is to be able to reach to the citizens of my country and enhance their access to educational opportunities and English language qualifications.

Hazan Hayaloğlu: 'Serendipity' is the word that comes to my mind when I think about my relationship with the British Council. Being an avid reader at a very young age, I was lucky to discover the British Council's library. It would be an understatement to say the British Council made me who I am intellectually as well as professionally.

Lütfiye Erkmen: The British Council offered me the opportunity to work in the same workplace with my elder son as co-workers. I am grateful to the British Council for giving me the feeling to experience all these emotions.

Pat Türkmenoğlu: During my 14-year journey with the British Council I have always felt that the opportunity of working in a people organisation, aiming to bring Turkish and British cultures together, was both a pleasure and a privilege.

Pınar Uşşaklı: My most joyful memories with the British Council were working with distinguished British authors, academics and poets.. and introducing the IELTS test to Turkey. I retired in 2004 but continued my work with the British Council as IELTS Speaking test evaluation expert. We are together for 56 years now!

Safiye Tümsek: Thanks to the inter-personal relations that I have developed in this organisation, I learned English words before I even learn reading and writing. With the support of the British Council, I attended reading-writing courses.and I'm still developing myself. This organisation is always fair to its employees. I feel more confident and powerful as a woman.

Programme participants (in alphabetical order):

Ebru Canan Sokullu: 'In 2017, I received British Council's Newton Fund Researcher Links grant for co-organising the network on 'Political, Economic, Social, and Legal Aspects of Hosting Migrants and Refugees' with University of Essex. This was a great opportunity not only to network but also exchange ideas and opportunities for further collaboration.

Pınar alık: 'In 1996, I carried out a one-year research programme as part of the British Council Link-Programme with then initiative from the University of Manchester (UMIST), . My colleagues at Ankara University and I are grateful to the British Council and our unforgettable friends in the UK.

UK Alumni

Aslı E Mert: With the support provided to UK Alumni Awards' winners, I aim to improve my skills with the prestigious trainings in the field of qualitative research techniques and disseminate these newly acquired skills to my colleagues and students to ensure the sustainability of the valuable opportunities provided by the British Council.

Ayten Alkan: With the Chevening Scholarship, I had the chance to participate to the Women's Participation Program at the University College London – Development Planning Unit in 2005.

Ece Sarıca Yücel: I took the IELTS test to prove my English qualifications for my post graduate study abroad. After completing Master's degree at London School of Economics, UK became my second country in terms of socio-cultural relations and career-wise. British Council's influence was important for me to take the first steps.

Gökçe Yörükođlu: I believe it's highly important that the British Council is running UK Alumni Awards because these Awards not only encourage the alumni to take part but also strengthens the success and self-confidence of the participants. I am so proud of receiving the Professional Achievement Award.

Sanem Aydın Düzgit: I appreciated British Council's offer to defer my Chevening Scholarship in 1999 when I lost my father in the Istanbul earthquake. My master's degree fostered my interest in European integration and played a crucial role in my decision to pursue a PhD in Europe and ultimately become an academic in one of the most reputable universities in Turkey.