

The Honorary Graduand: Vashti Megan Seth

The Orator: Professor Alison Assister

Vashti Seth is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Master of Business Administration.

Vashti Seth completed her BA (hons) in Philosophy and Sociology at UWE in 2009. In her final year of her degree, Vashti set up Deki, a charity that helps people in the developing world to set up businesses through business training and small loans with the goal of helping people with no income or opportunities to work their way out of poverty.

Vashti pioneered person-to-person microloans in the UK, by setting up a website that allows people in the UK to lend directly to people in the developing world, after being inspired by the hardships faced by Deki Dolkha, a Tibetan refugee her father had sponsored.

Vashti won an award for the Best Social Enterprise by the University of the West of England, is Social Enterprise Ambassador for the region and was shortlisted for Woman of the Year award by Red Magazine.

Prior to completing her undergraduate degree Vashti spent 5 years living in Sydney working in the film industry, where she worked on feature films, television series such as Home and Away and produced and managed a number of high profile commercials.

Vashti combines motherhood with a hectic working life – expanding Deki's global field partner network, forging strategic partnerships and campaigning for microfinance.

The Honorary Degree is awarded in recognition of Vashti Seth's pioneering social entrepreneurship.