

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: RASHIDA SMITH



Meet Rashida Smith, a second year student in the MPH program at Jefferson College of Population Health (JCPH). Rashida is originally from Jamaica but has since lived in the Cayman Islands and Michigan before coming to the City of Brotherly Love!

Why did Rashida choose TJU?

“I choose TJU for several reasons. First, I liked the flexibility the MPH program would offer me throughout my studies. I intended to engage in research or part-time work, and so I was looking for a program that would accommodate and support me on these ventures. Second, I liked that TJU’s MPH program has small class sizes and provide a lot of opportunities for hands-on learning. Also, I liked that opportunities exist to network with different professionals across disciplines. Finally, I always dreamed of living in a city. TJU’s location in Center City allowed me to mark this item off my bucket list.”

What is the best part of Rashida’s studies at Jefferson?

“The insights I have gleaned from my professors have allowed me to appreciate all that public health has to offer. The involvement of Program Director, Dr. Rosemary “Rosie” Frasso and all the other professors and staff in my academic and career affairs, and the overall well-being contributes to being one of the best parts of my studies. The level of care that Rosie has for the students in Jefferson’s MPH program along with her mentorship and guidance is unrivaled.”

What’s something people would be surprised to find out about Rashida?

“People are always amazed to find out that although I am from an island, I do not know how to swim. However, I always jokingly try to defend myself by saying that although I am from an island, I live on land and not in the sea. Hence, there is no need from me to learn how to swim (at least for now).”

Rashida recently presented her capstone project, “The effects of natural disasters on dialysis patients and the implications for emergency planning: a systematic review” and will graduate this May.