



LAW STUDENTS RECEIVE MANDELA RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS



Ms Shamila Mpinga and Ms Simone Gray who received Mandela Rhodes Scholarships.

Two students from UKZN's [College of Law and Management Studies](#), Ms Shamila Mpinga and Ms Simone Gray, graduated with honours and each received a Mandela Rhodes Scholarship.

Mpinga graduated with an LLB *summa cum laude* degree and Gray an LLM *cum laude* degree.

Mpinga said her achievement did not come as a surprise as she had planned from the first day of varsity that she would graduate with such honours.

'I stepped into varsity imagining myself walking out with an LLB degree conferred on me *summa cum laude*. It is an absolutely amazing feeling knowing that I achieved my first long-term goal.'

She said hard work, dedication and respect were the main elements behind her success. No stranger to receiving scholarships, she was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship during her second year of study.

Mpinga says she is delighted with the 2017 Mandela Rhodes Scholarship. 'I was ecstatic when I received the news that I had been selected for the 2017 cohort. It's such an honour to be a Mandela Rhodes scholar. The experience thus far has been phenomenal and I have grown so much.'

Gray said she was overwhelmed as she previously graduated with such honours for her LLB degree.

'I feel incredibly grateful and humbled to have graduated with such high honours for both my degrees thus far. It has been an incredible journey at UKZN and I feel honoured to have worked with such inspiring staff.'

She said the scholarship came as a total shock as she was not expecting it even though she believed she had worked very hard. She was thankful as she felt it would give her the opportunity to meet inspiring young leaders to debate current issues.

'It means so much to have been given this fantastic opportunity for personal growth and development. I am so grateful for the chance to further my education in the human rights field and to grow as an individual and a leader.'

Both students are currently studying for their respective degrees at the University of Cape Town. Mpinga is reading for a Master's degree in Mineral Law and is due to serve her articles at Bowmans upon completion of her Master's, while Gray is doing her LLM degree in Human Rights Law.

'I could not have achieved what I have on my own. I have my family, friends and the academic staff at UKZN to thank. I am humbled and eternally grateful for the support that I have received,' said Mpinga.

Gray said that she was grateful to her family, particularly her mother and friends, for their support, the UKZN Pietermaritzburg Law Faculty staff for truly inspiring greatness, her supervisor Ms Suhayfa Bhamjee for the endless motivation and Ms Robynne Louw from the postgrad centre.

[Reatilehile Karabo Moeti](#)