

Originally from Jamaica, Novadene Miller began her studies at the University of the West Indies and University of Technology, where she earned a bachelor's degree in hospitality and Tourism Management. From early on, she became interested in sustainable development, especially in sustainable tourism and environmental protection. *"Through my professional experiences in Jamaica, I realized that no development project can ignore its impact on nature and local communities. This awareness, nurtured by my reading and my openness to the world through travel, led me to explore these issues further by pursuing a Masters degree in Government, specialised in International relations, with the masters thesis focused on sustainable development."*

A stay in France as a language assistant finally confirmed her plan: *"When I saw the quality of research in geography in France, I knew that was where I needed to continue."*

She joined University of Lorraine for an interdisciplinary PhD in Geography and Sociology where she conducted research for a thesis entitled Sustainable development and Water Management in the Cockpit Country, Jamaica: Policy efficiency, perception and Practices, which sustainability? Cockpit Country is a forest known for endemic species. The PhD was defended in front of an international jury, including University of Cambridge

Beyond her thesis, Novadene Miller became deeply involved in university life, notably as a doctoral students' representative of humanities. *"This commitment allowed me to take part in exchanges in Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. It gave me the chance to better understand European research and to build a network that I still maintain today."*

After defending her thesis, Novadene chose to turn to secondary education, convinced that high school is a privileged place to share scientific methods and raise young people's awareness of global issues. Today, as an IB Geography Educator at the Institut International de Lancy in Geneva, she teaches courses within the International Baccalaureate program. *"I taught at university, but at high school I can follow my students over time and develop projects that give real meaning to academic knowledge."*

At her school, she coordinates the Model United Nations club and leads numerous educational and solidarity projects with her students: fundraising for UNICEF, conferences on gender equality, raising awareness about the impact of digital technology and the protection of human rights. *"These actions show them that they can be actors, not just spectators."* She also draws on her research skills to introduce her students to research methods and real-world environmental issues, illustrated through her own fieldwork.

For Novadene, the PhD remains a valuable foundation: *"Having a PhD allows me to pass on methods: how to collect data, create a map, structure a research essay. I encourage my students to adopt a critical mindset and to question the world around them."*

To young researchers, she has a clear message: *"Publishing, traveling, presenting your work internationally — that's essential. But it's just as important to think about what comes next. A doctorate is not an end point; it's a base for exploring new paths, sometimes unexpected ones."*

