DEBORAH ALABI

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Trauma-informed, culturally responsive support — rooted in dignity

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Faith-grounded, psychology-trained practitioner providing client-centered support to individuals and families navigating crisis, settlement, and transition. Experienced in client assessment, case planning, and cross-cultural community work, with a research background in newcomer youth advocacy and mental health policy. Approach is trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and grounded in empathy, structure, and advocacy.

EDUCATION

The University of Winnipeg *Expected June 2026*

B.A. Honours, Psychology — Minor in English Language | Winnipeg, MB

- Undergraduate Thesis: Alexithymia and Attention-Emotion Interactions (2025–2026)
- Research focus: emotion, cognition & behavior, attention, PTSD, grief, mental health policy, community psychology
- Dean's Honours List (2023–2024)

University of Lagos *2018 – 2020*

B.A., English Language and Literature | Lagos, Nigeria

- Unilag Foundation Students Fellowship

Deeper Life High School, Lagos Campus *2012 – 2018*

High School Diploma, Humanities | Grade: Distinction | Lagos, Nigeria

- Library Prefect; President, Press Club

EXPERIENCE

Experience Curator *2026 – Present*

The Rapha Collective (Self-Employed)

- Curate immersive exhibitions and experiences exploring loss, grief, healing, and restoration (e.g., Meeting Rapha)
- Design emotional and experiential journeys that invite reflection and encounter
- Collaborate with artists, creatives, and community partners to bring exhibitions to life

Newcomer Case Manager *Jan 2026 – Present*

Resilia Community Wellness Centre (formerly Aurora Family Therapy Centre) | Winnipeg, MB

- Assess clients' financial and social needs and develop individualized case plans to support access to income assistance and settlement services
- Guide clients through income assistance applications, verifying eligibility and documentation to ensure timely access to benefits
- Connect clients to employment, language, and community resources that support stability and independence

Program Coordinator (Volunteer) *Oct 2025 – Present*

African Immigrants Settlement in Canada (AISIC) | Winnipeg, MB

- Implement evidence-based psychological practices across youth and family mentorship programs
- Coordinate services and support volunteers through structured training and supervised opportunities
- Contribute to culturally responsive, community-led initiatives supporting African newcomer immigrants

Sales Associate *Nov 2023 – Present*

Zara (Inditex) | Winnipeg, MB

- Deliver consistent, client-centered service in a fast-paced, high-volume retail environment
- Uphold organizational policies on safety, security, and confidentiality
- Maintain strong attention to detail and professionalism under pressure

Student Mentor (Practicum) *Oct 2023 – Oct 2025*

New Directions for Children, Youth, Adults & Families | Winnipeg, MB

- Provided trauma-informed emotional and practical support to clients facing complex social and mental health challenges
- Helped clients build life skills and coping strategies, collaborating with interdisciplinary teams on care and referrals

- Promoted wellness-focused routines and healthy behavior change

Researcher *Nov 2023 – Jul 2024*

Newcomer Youth Participatory Action Research Project, IRCOM | Winnipeg, MB

- Conducted interviews, focus groups, and surveys with newcomer and refugee youth
- Assessed barriers related to settlement, education, and justice systems
- Prepared reports and presented findings to government representatives and community stakeholders
- Applied ethical research standards and maintained confidentiality of sensitive data

SKILLS

Core Competencies: Trauma-Informed Care & Crisis Support, Counseling & Conflict Resolution, Cross-Cultural & Newcomer Support, Risk Assessment & Case Planning, Group Facilitation & Community Outreach, Professional Documentation & Reporting, Confidentiality & Ethical Practice

Technical Tools: Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), Zoom, Slack, Genially, CARMIS, SPSS, Qualtrics, Canva, CapCut

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certificate in Applied Psychology (in progress)
- Crisis Counselling Skills Training — Klinic
- HRPP-E Facilitator (Healthy Relationships Plus Program – Enhanced)
- TCPS 2: CORE — Research Ethics Certification
- CPR C & AED (First Aid)
- Food Handler Certification

LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT

Student Fellow *2025 – 2026*

PRIME Student Fellowship

- Collaborated with community-based organizations and stakeholders to advance evidence-based policies and mental health initiatives

Volunteer *2025*

Siloam Mission

- Supported individuals experiencing housing and food insecurity through compassionate, respectful service while maintaining confidentiality and professionalism

Presenter *2023 – 2024*

IRCOM Conference — "Youth Perspectives on Addressing Racism in Schools"

- Presented community-based research examining systemic barriers affecting newcomer youth, with recommendations to inform policy, education, and settlement supports

Fundraiser *2022*

Plan Canada, Special Olympics, Doctors Without Borders

- Exceeded fundraising targets by executing strategic donor outreach and data-driven campaign planning aligned with organizational priorities

Delegate *2020*

International Model United Nations Online Conference

- Represented an assigned country in an international online UN simulation: policy research, formal speeches, resolution negotiation, and collaboration with global delegates

Head of Partnership & Sponsorship *2020*

TEDxBowenUniversity

- Built and maintained collaborative relationships with organizations and community partners; coordinated stakeholder engagement in a high-responsibility, team-based environment