

BU Honorary Graduate Citation - Sam Crowe

Chancellor/Pro-Chancellor,

As Director of Public Health for Dorset, Sam Crowe led the local response to the Covid-19 pandemic, advising people and organisations, including BU, on staying safe and minimising the spread.

Having only officially stepped into the role in 2019, Sam describes the task of co-ordinating rapid changes in Covid policy as a “baptism of fire”. Nonetheless, he navigated the challenges with an open style of communication, which led to him becoming a regular on local radio and television.

Sam’s communication expertise is rooted in his early career as a journalist. After completing a degree in Early Hominid Studies at the University of Liverpool – a course which he says jumped out to him from the pages of the UCAS handbook – Sam started out as a writer and then a sub editor on a medical trade magazine. With this experience under his belt, and spurred on by a desire to travel, Sam wrote to the editor of the Lancet offering his services as an overseas correspondent. He went on to spend seven years reporting on major healthcare programmes across Sub-Saharan Africa, including the treatment of HIV and Aids, and the fight against Malaria and TB.

When a change in policy in 2000 enabled those from non-medical backgrounds to train in public health roles in England, Sam first enrolled on a Master’s at the London School of Tropical Hygiene and Medicine, before applying to the Faculty of Public Health. Despite his eligibility, Sam recalls having to fight to gain acceptance by demonstrating the relevance of his experiences overseas.

Once qualified, Sam’s first health posting was in Dorset where he has continued to build his career and raise his family. Despite having witnessed health inequalities during his time working in Africa, Sam is passionate about improving access to healthcare in local communities and tackling the inequalities that can be just as apparent across neighbourhoods in the UK.

Chancellor/Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Sam Crowe, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.