

Esther Res Esantsi: Breaking Barriers as the First Female Valedictorian of ILGS

In 2025, Esther Res Esantsi made history at the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) when she graduated with an MSc in Local Government Financial Management and was adjudged Valedictorian of the 7th Congregation, the first female ever to receive this honour. This landmark recognition not only reflected her academic excellence but also her commitment to leadership, resilience, and innovation.

Esther is a dedicated professional with expertise in financial analysis, business development, and organisational leadership. She currently serves as a Budget Analyst at the Greater Accra Regional Coordinating Council, where she provides accurate revenue and expenditure forecasts, enforces cost controls, and conducts comprehensive reviews of financial statements across Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs). Her work is instrumental in strengthening financial accountability and resource management within the Greater Accra Region.

Her professional journey includes serving as Head of Business Development at Castle Steel Structures, where she led strategic growth initiatives, optimised production processes, and enhanced procurement and sales operations. She also gained valuable experience at the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) during her national service, contributing to staff development initiatives, administrative efficiency, and organisational effectiveness.

Esther's leadership extends beyond her professional roles. At the University of Professional Studies, Accra, she chaired an SRC Ad-Hoc Committee, coordinating student-focused programmes, advocacy campaigns, and academic support initiatives, while ensuring students' voices were actively represented at university management forums. As a freelance facilitator and consultant, she continues to design and deliver tailored coaching programmes, business growth strategies, and literary engagement workshops, reflecting her versatility and commitment to personal and community development.

Alongside her MSc, Esther holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Professional Studies, Accra, and has undertaken executive training at CEIBS-China Europe International Business School, completing the programme *Building a Business to Sell*.

Widely recognised for her analytical strength, adaptability, and innovative mindset, Esther combines academic distinction with professional expertise. Her career and achievements reflect not only excellence but also a pioneering spirit that continues to inspire.