

The Honorary Graduand: Poku Pipim Osei, MSc FRSA

Doctor of Business Administration

Poku Osei is a Ghanaian-born social entrepreneur, systems leader and governance professional whose work has transformed approaches to social mobility, workplace inclusion and youth empowerment across the UK. Raised in Ghana, his early experiences of inequality and exposure to entrepreneurship shaped a lifelong commitment to using business as a force for social good.

He studied Political Science and Psychology at the University of Ghana before moving to the UK, where he further developed his expertise in business, governance and leadership. Poku is the Founder of Babbasa, an award-winning Bristol-based social enterprise established in 2013 to address inequality in access to employment and opportunity. Under his leadership, Babbasa has grown from a grassroots initiative into a nationally recognised organisation, supporting thousands of young people from underrepresented backgrounds into education, employment and leadership pathways. The organisation became the first Black-led social enterprise to receive the Queen's Award for Enterprise in Social Mobility, reflecting both its innovation and impact.

Alongside his executive leadership, Poku has played a significant role in shaping policy and practice across sectors. He has advised major organisations including the West of England Combined Authority, Triodos Bank, Arup and government bodies on social value, inclusive leadership and community engagement. He has also led system-wide initiatives such as OurCity2030, a pioneering collaboration bringing together major institutions to tackle inequality at a city level. Poku brings extensive governance experience, serving as a Non-Executive Director at Business West, a Non-Executive Director at Bristol NHS Group, and a Principal Consultant at Merop Consulting Ltd.

Across these roles, he is recognised for his integrity, strategic insight and ability to challenge and support organisations to deliver meaningful, inclusive outcomes.

His leadership and impact have been widely recognised. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA), a Cambridge Social Innovation Prize recipient, and was named Business Person of the Year at the Bristol Live Awards. He has also delivered TEDx talks on leadership and racial equity, inspiring audiences nationally and internationally.

Poku holds an MSc in Business Management from the University of the West of England and continues to contribute to the University as a member of its Inclusion Advisory Board. His work is driven by a clear purpose: to create fairer systems, unlock potential and build a more inclusive society for future generations.