There seems to be no stopping Luciana Berger. Since being elected as an MP in 2010, she has swiftly risen through the ranks of the Labour Party.

Only five months after entering Parliament, Berger was appointed Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change. Three years later, in October 2013, she was promoted to the role of Shadow Minister for Public Health. Clearly, the next general election will be a key moment for the political career of the impressive, industrious and young MP.

Born in 1981, Berger grew up in Wembley, north-west London. Even as a child, she remembers Tory rule and has described it as a “nasty, spiteful, shameful period in our history”. Her motivation for her political work dates back to that era.

Berger was heavily involved in student politics and anti-racism campaigns at the National Union of Students when she was an undergraduate at the University of Birmingham, where she studied Commerce with Spanish.

However, without any formal political education, she felt the need for her political activism to be informed by the “theoretical backbone” of politics, and she decided to study an MSc in Government, Policy and Politics at Birkbeck. She completed the one-year, full-time postgraduate qualification in 2005. The course proved to be valuable for, and relevant to, her future political career, particularly the seminars about modern British politics, which covered the struggle for female representation in British democracy.

After completing her studies, Berger worked for the management consultancy Accenture and the NHS Confederation, before becoming the Labour and Co-operative MP for Liverpool Wavertree in 2010 with a majority of 7,167. Since entering Parliament, Berger has worked hard and has campaigned on many issues, including against food poverty, on toughening up laws on dangerous dogs, and on the Green Deal energy efficiency scheme. According to the website TheyWorkForYou.com, she has spoken in 80 debates in the past year – well above the average for MPs.

When asked about Birkbeck, Berger is overwhelmingly positive, praising the diversity of the student body, and the benefits of part-time study for the economy and individuals. She said: “Of all my academic experiences, Birkbeck was by far the best. I would definitely recommend Birkbeck to others. The opportunity it provides is unparalleled. At the end of the course, I was really wedded to the ‘at night we learn’ ethos that I perhaps didn’t really think about much before I applied.”

Listen to a podcast interview with Luciana Berger at: www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeckvoices/episode10