

## Careers in Environmental Science

Our graduates are ideally suited to rewarding jobs in environmental consultancies, local authorities, government agencies and industry or as teachers. Many decide to go on to study for research degrees in environmentally-related areas.

### Graduate Profiles

Some of our recent graduates:

#### Tahir Nagji

"After graduating in 2008 I took part in The University of Nottingham U21 summer school at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, China where I learnt about Chinese language and culture. I then did the Study China programme, funded by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, which helped developed my Mandarin language ability. Then I spent several months travelling around South East Asia.

When I returned to the UK, I work as a Tutor for a few months teaching primary and high



school students Mathematics and Science. That summer, I was fortunate to be able to take part in a DFID (Department for international Development) funded volunteering scheme at an environmental centre in Cape Town, South Africa. The project involved providing environmental education to the local community about good principles of waste and water management.

The following year I received funding from NERC (the UK's main agency for funding and managing research, training and knowledge exchange in environmental sciences) for a postgraduate course in Hydrogeology at The University of Birmingham. As part of the course, I got to conduct my research project in collaboration with The University of British Columbia, in Vancouver Canada where I investigated the effect of hydrogeological and biogeochemical conditions on nitrogen transport in a nitrogen-treated forest watershed.

Next I got a job as a hydrogeologist for a consultancy in Western Australia (Perth) which specialises in groundwater issues of the mining industry in Western Australia. My role includes: water supply investigation, dewatering assessment, regulatory approvals and mine water management studies. The field work usually involves going to remote mine or exploration sites to sample groundwater and surface water, supervising exploration drilling and the installation and testing of production and monitor bores. It can be quite challenging but very rewarding and a great opportunity to see the Australian Outback.

I have now decided I would like to expand my skills in the field of environmental and public health and am seeking potential environmental health traineeship opportunities with local councils in Australia.

I would highly recommend the Environmental Science course at Nottingham. It provided me with the necessary skills and knowledge needed for a career in environmental science and is recognised by industries both in the UK and internationally. The course has provided me with some fantastic opportunities. The facilities at the University are great and the staff are extremely friendly and have continued to provide ongoing advice and support."

### **Helene Wright**

"Whilst still at university I applied for the graduate training programme with the Waste Recycling Group - the company is one of the UK's leading waste management companies that receive, recycle, dispose of and obtain energy from millions of tonnes of household, industrial and commercial waste annually. The selection process was almost like Dragons Den, with over 5 group tasks, 2 individual presentations, a business pitch to deliver as a team, 5 interviews and 2-3000 word essays to write by hand! I was lucky enough to get through all stages of assessments and was chosen from 300 applicants to take part in the graduate programme.



The graduate programme is a ten month's training based within the company's operational teams. I will gain experience of the business and have the opportunity to become part of an operational facility or head office team. I will be involved in a range of projects, working alongside experienced members of the team, with a senior member assigned to me as my mentor.

The company will help me to decide on where I want to take my newly developed skills within the business. Successful graduates are offered employment in an operational role often as assistant facility managers. There may even be the chance to undertake further postgraduate training."

*After successfully completing the programme in 2012, Helene has recently become Assistant Manager at FCC Environment.*

### **Dale Harrison**

Dale graduated in 2006. During the following summer she volunteered for the Wildlife Trust as an Education Assistant and for the BTCV as a Conservation Volunteer. After six months she got her first job - Information Assistant for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds where she worked outdoors at a viewpoint watching peregrine falcons as they raised their young.

Her role helped raise support for the RSPB through memberships and sales and encouraged people to be inspired by birds and nature. She continued working for the RSPB on a nature reserve in Norfolk as a Visitor and Publicity Officer which involved managing a small team of volunteers, organising a programme of visitor events, creating and updating interpretation, and working with the media.



Currently Dale works for Buglife (The Invertebrate Conservation Trust) as an Outreach Officer. Her role includes overseeing the charity's membership, organising events, creating outreach and education projects, and looking after the website. She has also been busy studying for a part-time MSc in Biological Recording to improve her field skills and invertebrate identification.

### **Jack Croxall**

"Just after graduating (in 2009) from Nottingham I went to work for a month in the BBC factual development department in London. My duties included researching stories for BBC2 and BBC4 science and nature programs as well as contributing my own program ideas. It was a great experience and I'm sure the fact that my degree covered a range of science disciplines played a large part in getting me through the application process.

With green issues so firmly in the public eye at the moment I think the media industry looks upon environmental science graduates particularly favourably. I am now in the process of applying for further work in science television and hope to pursue a career in the industry!"

### **Rupert Hough**

After graduating from the BSc in Environmental Sciences in 1999, Rupert continued at Nottingham to undertake a PhD aimed at assessing the health risks associated with living on contaminated land. After completing this project in 2002, his interest in health assessment led him to the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine where he worked as part of the co-ordination team for a large European Union funded project assessing cancer risk due to arsenic in drinking water.

In 2005, Rupert was appointed by Cranfield University as Project Manager for a UK-based consortium investigating bioremediation of hydrocarbon-contaminated land and risk assessment.

He is currently a soil science researcher at the Robert Hutton Institute in Aberdeen.