Geography graduate stories



UWE Bristol | University of the West of England

95%

of final year UWE Bristol BSc Geography students feel prepared for their future career

Source: National Student Survey 2018

If you would like to find out more about the geography degrees that we offer please come along to one of our open days or visit our webpages.

Geography graduate stories

It is normal to not be certain about what you want to do for the rest of your life.

Geography graduates are highly employable because they can either pursue a career related to the geographical topics studied on their degree, or use the transferable skills developed during their degree within a wide range of sectors. This document demonstrates the wide range of careers that geographers go into by describing the experiences of (mainly UWE Bristol) geography graduates, organised into the seven different areas listed below:



- The Physical Environment
- Sustainability and Development
- The Business World
- The Built Environment
- Education
- Geographic Information Systems
- Other

Links not working? Open using Adobe Acrobat Reader

The Physical Environment

Geography has a unique role in helping people understand, prepare for and respond to events in the physical world be it winter snows; flooding or tectonic processes. Geography's whole system approach links across the landscape, atmosphere, oceans and biosphere and how they shape, support and at times threaten our welfare. Whether working in hydrology, meteorology, conservation, ecology, environmental engineering, surveying, hazard response and management, or agriculture, there are a wealth of career opportunities at the interface between people and their environment.

Read about geography graduates who have entered this sector

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The Physical Environment: Georgia Budden



What do you do now?

I work for a small Environmental Consultancy firm in Bristol, I've worked for MTS Environmental for two years now.

How did you get to where you are now?

I originally interviewed for the position of Environmental Adviser for MTS and unfortunately didn't get the job. I really liked the company so I emailed the director and asked if I could perhaps volunteer or work as an intern. I started as an intern and then secured the position of Environmental Adviser and I am now a Junior Environmental Consultant with the same company.

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The Physical Environment: Nick Drewett





What do you do now?

Currently a Flood Risk Consultant for an Environmental Consultancy with focus towards Flood Risk and Drainage/SuDS.

How did you get to where you are now?

Spent three weeks after graduation doing a similar role at a smaller firm, but then found my current role. So pretty much been here straight from graduating. Quite lucky to find a job relating to my degree straight away!

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The Physical Environment: Kristie Darling



What do you do now?

I am currently working for JBA Consulting; an environmental, engineering, and risk based consultancy. My role mainly focuses of fluvial flood risk, including:- preparing strategic flood risk assessment for councils, which can be used within planning and development.

How did you get to where you are now?

I first joined JBA a month after graduating from my undergrad at UWE after having applied for several similar roles with companies in the Bristol area.

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The Physical Environment: Rhi Jenkins



What do you do now?

I am working for Arcadis as an Assistant ECC Project Manager on the Environment Agency account, where I manage contracts for a variety of EA flood resilience schemes across the UK.

How did you get to where you are now?

I applied to the Arcadis graduate scheme when I heard there were positions available within the engineering side of the company and I was successful in securing a place as a graduate acoustics engineer, monitoring and analysing environmental noise. To me, this was a 'foot in the door' and I made sure to network with colleagues from different teams and accounts when the opportunities arose, which resulted in being internally headhunted for my position now.

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The Physical Environment: Haya al Bakar



What do you do now?

I am working as a research assistant in Kuwait institute for Scientific Research (KISR) in a research programme called Crises Decision Support since 2016. My programme is developing a national natural and man-made hazard warning system and my tasks include assessing and prioritizing natural hazards and developing GIS hazard vulnerability maps for the State of Kuwait.

How did you get to where you are now?

I got here thanks to the knowledge I gained from my geography degree, and the love of everything related to our environment and confidence that grew during my three years at university.

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The Physical Environment: Sarah Cane



What do you do now?

I am an Environmental Consultant, sub-contracted on a full- time basis to one of our clients, Santander. My role is to manage the implementation and continued roll-out of Santander's Environmental Management System (EMS) across their operational estate, including head offices, branches and data centres. I provide expert advice on the status of the system, how it is being run and what needs to be done to ensure it passes ISO 14001 external audit.

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The Physical Environment: Emily Campbell



What do you do now?

I work for Natural Resources Wales in the Flood Risk Analysis Team in Cardiff. My key responsibilities include hydraulic modelling, updating national Flood Risk Maps, Flood Duty work (flood events) and reviewing Flood Consequence Assessments.

How did you get to where you are now?

Working with brilliant GIS lecturers and practitioners helped me gain confidence in my GIS capabilities and taught me how I can transfer the skills I used at UWE in ArcMap to other GIS systems. The presentations and assignments in my degree helped with my communication and report writing skills.

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The Physical Environment: Kaja Fenn



What do you do now?

I am a PhD student on the NERC Doctoral Training Partnership at the University of Oxford (currently in my 3rd year). My key research areas are sedimentology, geochronology and geochemistry.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduation from UWE I went straight into a Master's Degree in Quaternary Science at Royal Holloway. While studying for my MSc I started applying for PhD's, but unfortunately was not able to secure a place for the following year. After graduating I started applying again and got offers from Hull, London NERC DTP, and Oxford NERC DTP.

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The Physical Environment: Anna Bunney



What do you do now?

I am lucky enough to have my dream job - the Education Coordinator at ORCA, who are one of the UK's leading whale and dolphin conservation charities.

How did you get to where you are now?

Straight after graduating, I had landed a job at the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust as a Conservation Assistant, which gave me experience of working within a charity. As I wanted to specialise in marine conservation, so I spent the following summer in the Isle of Man, volunteering for the Manx Wildlife Trust and the Manx Basking Shark Watch. I was then lucky enough to gain a job at the Cumbria Wildlife Trust as a Trainee Marine and Coastal Conservation Officer. This gave me the experience I needed to gain a position with ORCA..

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The Physical Environment: Wicki Nielsen



What do you do now?

I am now working as a Senior Certification Officer for the Soil Association Forestry department and I'm absolutely LOVING my job! We certify forests and companies around the world with FSC and PEFC certification, which are means of verifying the responsible management of forests and the environment.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating an employment agency found me a temp job in the Field Services department at the Environment Agency. I worked there for about 6 months until the contract ran out and then I got another temp job at the Wildlife Permit team at Natural England. I worked there for about 3 months and then I got a job as a Certification Officer at the Soil Association.

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The Physical Environment: George Bowman



What do you do now?

I am currently on 2-year fixed term contract as a Flood Risk Engineer for Greater Wellington Regional Council.

How did you get to where you are now?

Personal circumstances led me to temporarily withdraw from university during Year 2. However, I successfully completed the degree. After graduating I did an addition River and Coastal Engineering qualification. I had always aspired to explore New Zealand so I started to look overseas, and to see a vacancy in the field I was chasing seemed like fate. Following the application, a successful interview, and subsequent visa process I found myself on a one- way ticket to Wellington. Life is better than ever before; never give up.

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The Physical Environment: Nick Jones



What do you do now?

I am the Incident Management Digital Strategy Lead for the Environment Agency. My role involves investigating and shaping the direction of the digital component of the organisation's incident response.

How did you get to where you are now?

After completing my undergraduate at UWE. I went on to finish a PhD in Fluvial Geomorphology & Participation at UWE. Towards the end of my PhD, I applied and was successful in joining the Environment Agency (EA) in a local team responsible for WFD project delivery with a focus on GIS. A few months after joining the EA, the Winter floods of 2015/16 happened and I went to Cumbria to support the recovery effort. My current role arose from that experience.

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The Physical Environment: Miriam Billig



What do you do now?

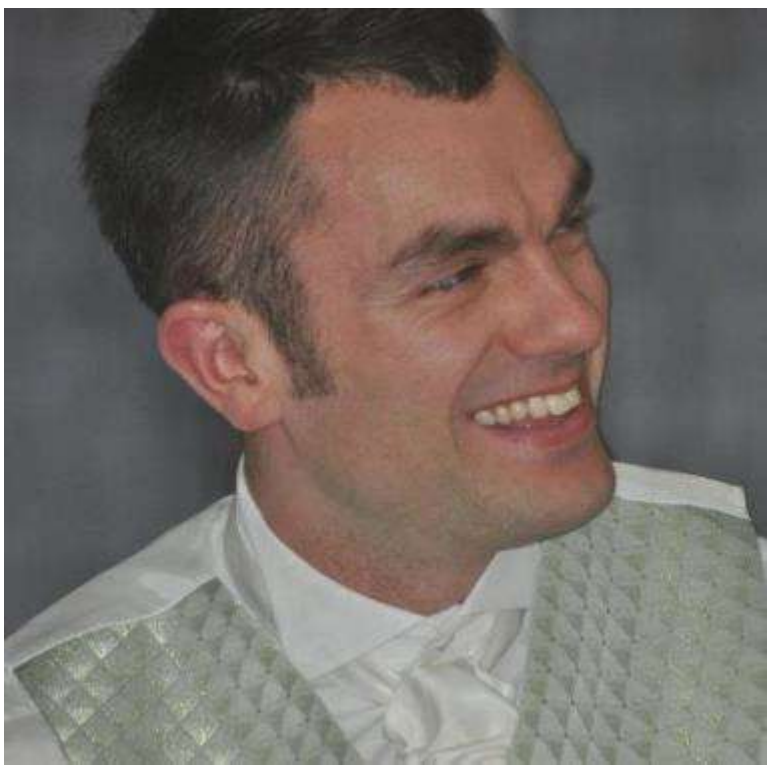
I am an Environmental Consultant with the engineering consultancy, Mott MacDonald. We currently are working on developing flood defence projects for the Environment Agency for sites all over Cornwall and Devon. This involves lots of travel around the counties and staying by the beach (surfing!!).

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating I completed the Environmental Consultancy Masters at UWE, then worked as an environmental monitoring technician for an air quality consultancy. This gave me the necessary experience and qualifications for my current role.

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The Physical Environment: Seb Bentley



What do you do now?

I currently work for a global consultancy firm called AECOM as a Principal Hydromorphologist working mainly on river restoration in the U.K. and overseas.

How did you get to where you are now?

Immediately leaving university I joined a consultancy called JBA where I was put on the graduate development programme... learning things such as hydraulic modelling, GIS and hydrology. I then took on a broad mix of tasks including the above before managing to carve a niche in river restoration and hydromorphology.

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The Physical Environment: James Rogers



What do you do now?

I am currently working for the Dartmoor National Park Authority as a Farming and Community Wildlife Advisor.

How did you get to where you are now?

I knew I wanted to work in conservation and luckily got onto a traineeship in an NNR on Dartmoor with Natural England. I was here for 7 months learning how to manage specific habitats for certain species. I also got tickets in chainsaw, pesticide application, 4x4 driving and a number of other things including gaining my Dormouse handling licence. I then secured my role with the DNPA and am loving it.

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The Physical Environment: Ciara Dawe



What do you do now?

I am currently a Graduate Consultant in AECOM's Water Group, with responsibility for technical delivery of flood risk and water management projects within the UK.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating I was successful in applying for a 'Flood Risk and GIS Officer' internship at Bristol City Council. I worked there for one year, gaining a lot of experience and skills needed for my current role. I found this was a great way to get my foot in the door and network with people in a similar field. Towards the end of my internship I sent out speculative emails to various consultancies enquiring about vacancies. This is how I heard about the opportunity at AECOM.

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The Physical Environment: Nathan Fionda



What do you do now?

I am a Principle Consultant Network Modeller. I'm currently working for Wessex Water but I have experience working for a number of consultants and the EA. I am also a chartered member of CIWEM and RGS.

How did you get to where you are now?

After my degree I went straight to work for the EA, followed by Atkins, RPS and Wessex. I became chartered with both CIWEM and RGS and have been contracting my network modelling services for over 5 years.

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The Physical Environment: Jared Maxfield



What do you do now?

I am employed as a Graduate Environmental Scientist at Wessex Water.

How did you get to where you are now?

Around 6 months after graduating I applied for a position at the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office. I was successful and began a role as a Hydrographic Data Technician in March 2017. I worked in several different teams within the office before being promoted to a Data Analyst in September. After fulfilling my year-long contract, I applied for my current position at Wessex Water.

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The Physical Environment: Alex Petrakis



What do you do now?

I currently work as a consultant at Wallingford Hydrosolutions in Cardiff. My role allows me to work for a variety of clients on a range of projects such as hydraulic modelling and Flood Risk Assessments for single developers, to Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for Councils.

How did you get to where you are now?

I started applying for jobs a few weeks before my graduation. I had a couple of interviews and was lucky enough to get something that I enjoyed studying during my time at UWE. Following my interview, they requested my river management report to look at, so it was good to keep relevant work handy.

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The Physical Environment: Rhys Tucker



What do you do now?

I am currently working as an Assistant Hydraulic Modeller for Welsh Water.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating I got a part time job in the energy team at Welsh Water. I found plenty of opportunity in a water company with the skills and knowledge I had gained during my degree as they are looking for people with analytical skills as well as an appreciation of the environment. After a year in the energy team I got a new role in the waste water hydraulic modelling team. I have been working in the team for about a year and a half now and I am in the process of applying to do a part-time masters in Civil and Water Engineering in the hope to broaden my opportunities in the future.

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The Physical Environment: Megan Evans



What do you do now?

I'm working as Engagement & Science Coordinator for Earthwatch Europe, an environmental research charity seeking to create knowledge and inspire action to protect the planet's key ecosystems and habitats.

How did you get to where you are now?

I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do, so moved to Dubai to run a water sports centre! During this time I worked as crew and Research Assistant with Pangaea Explorations and eXXpedtion. Alongside this I did a lot of volunteering at the Dubai Turtle Rehab Project and with the Sea Watch Foundation as their Education Officer. This gave me the experience I needed for my current role.

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The Physical Environment: George Hockridge



What do you do now?
I am currently a Senior Environmental Consultant at OHES Environmental managing contaminated land projects.

How did you get to where you are now?
I began my career at Waterman Infrastructure & Environment (WIE) as an intern. Soon after WIE offered me a permanent contract as a Graduate Environmental Consultant, and I progressed to a Consultant two years later. Recently I have joined OHES Environmental as a Senior Environmental Consultant managing contaminated land projects across the UK.

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The Physical Environment: Patrick Lloyd



What do you do now?

I am currently a graduate environmental consultant working for a consultancy in Brighton, specialising in the writing reports for residential properties, assessing the environmental risks of the property, using both current and old maps as well as using local council information to come to a decision for the report.

How did you get to where you are now?

I had planned to try and get into a graduate role as soon as possible within the environmental sector, having applied for multiple roles around the country I managed to be successful for this role, I graduated in July and began my new role at the end of August.

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Sustainability and Development

Geographers are found working in many different types of roles concerned with global issues such as sustainability and development. These roles might be working for an international company with operations in many different countries; for government departments such as the Department for International Development or Foreign and Commonwealth Office; the armed forces; non-government organisations such as the British Council or international development charities or bodies such as the European Commission or United Nations.

Read about geography graduates who have entered this sector



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Sustainability and Development: Jack Stevens



What do you do now?

I'm currently a consultant at Ricardo Energy & Environment in the waste due diligence and expert witness team.

How did you get to where you are now?

After completing my undergraduate degree, I worked in sales for a year until I saved up enough to do an MSc in Environmental Consultancy at UWE. The course had a work placement element which was the main selling point, as it allowed me to get some relevant industry experience. I contacted Ricardo Energy & Environment and after four months of voluntary placement work I managed to land a graduate role with them.

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Sustainability and Development: Tobias Robinson



What do you do now?

I am an Environment, Energy and Sustainable Products Consultant: working with heavy industry to improve their sustainability performance using recognised internal standards.

How did you get to where you are now?

Leaving UWE I completed a Masters in Integrated Coastal Zone Management at Glamorgan, that landed me completing an SEA for a tidal power project in the Channel Islands. Lack of final funding for that meant I was working in a factory for 9 months, when the new consultant environmental auditor selected me as an auditee: after realising my experience and qualifications he offered me a role. Now after 4 years with the business I am among a small number of specialist energy auditors in the UK.

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Sustainability and Development: Tom Coleman



What do you do now?

I am a Senior Climate Change Officer at CDP (the world's leading organization for environmental disclosure). I help organisation's hold the real economy accountable for their actions on climate change (or lack of). I was lead analyst, and co-author of our recent global climate report. It was the first time financial figures were directly attributable to corporate's exposure to climate change. It received global mainstream media attention, and support from U.S. Senators and Members of Congress.

How did you get to where you are now?

I started as an intern at CDP 3 years ago and was able to move to a contract position after 4 months. I would advise anyone that's interested in working in the environmental space to consider an internship. An internship was my foot in the door in a highly competitive sector.

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Sustainability and Development: Ellie Suckling



What do you do now?

My current role is the network officer at Community RePaint. We aim to collect leftover paint that would have gone to landfill and redistribute it to benefit individuals, families, communities and charities in need.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating, as part of the Bristol Green Capital Internship Summer Programme, I worked for 3 months on an international photography project celebrating organic farming. This led to a role working at an organic farming certification body OF&G. I then volunteered for 3 months with ICS in India, focusing on civic participation. This then led me to my role at Community RePaint to use the skills set I have attained from a diverse range of networks.

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Sustainability and Development: Sophie Gilham



What do you do now?

I work for a start-up disruptive and innovative engineering company called Recycling Technologies Ltd. RT has been formed to commercialise the development of a plastic recycling technique originally developed by the University of Warwick in 2011.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduation I decided to continue at UWE with an MSc in Environmental Consultancy. It was at the UWE Careers fair in October 2015 that I met the CEO of Recycling Technologies (Adrian Griffiths), and was offered an interview and then a full- time position.

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Sustainability and Development: Chris Hambling



What do you do now?

I am a Program Manager in Strategic Environment and Waste Policy branch of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

How did you get to where you are now?

I did a MSc in Environmental Consultancy at UWE following my degree. This included a placement. I left the company (Halcrow, then CH2M Hill) after 10 years having worked in the UK and transferred to Australia. Then worked for a small consulting firm before moving to the Queensland Government a few months ago. To get here I deliberately kept a strategic generalised view on broader environmental topics and invested time in becoming a project and program manage.

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Sustainability and Development: Hayley Williams



What do you do now?

Compliance & Sustainability Project Leader at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust. Essentially management of the energy, waste and water budgets for the Trust and the associated strategy and projects.

How did you get to where you are now?

Following graduation I've gained experience in a number of organisations, where I've predominantly developed energy and buildings experience. I have completed a distance learning MSc in Climate Change & Sustainable Development, and other qualifications within energy management and facilities management.

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Sustainability and Development: Fay Pitcher



What do you do now?

I work for SUEZ Recycling & Recovery UK as a Sales Coordinator in the Material Sourcing Team. We source material for all our South West sites – Material Recycling Facilities, Transfer Stations and most recently two new Energy from Waste Facilities.

How did you get to where you are now?

Studying at UWE helped prepare me for many aspects of my current role:

- Research, Reports & Assignments – transferrable skills to the reporting I do now
- Individual & Team work – my current role requires both
- Presentations – UWE developed my confidence and I am now happy to present in front of a group of people (including senior management!)

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Sustainability and Development: Jon Hall



What do you do now?

I am a sustainability consultant for the second largest architectural practice in the UK, BDP. Having first worked there as a graduate, I returned after a few years at another practice where I also read for an MSc in Environmental Policy and Management in my spare time.

How did you get to where you are now?

I have studied at two institutions and I found that UWE was the best at preparing a student for life after graduating as the assignments and other tasks are quite relatable to tasks I undertake in my role. For example, this meant that many assignments were less focused on conceptual essay writing and more about producing a quality report/output.

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Sustainability and Development: Felix Cryer



What do you do now?

I currently work for Tidal Lagoon Power on the Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay (TLSB) project. We are introducing the world first tidal lagoons for renewable energy generation into the UK, starting with our first lagoon, the £1.3 billion flag ship project in Swansea Bay.

How did you get to where you are now?

During my time at UWE, we learned a range of different topics which has been extremely beneficial to my role today. Working on a complex project like TLSB throws up challenges in both the marine and terrestrial environments; something not lot of other projects have to contend with. We need to deal with a range of environmental topics from pollution prevention to habitat creation.

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Sustainability and Development: Ben Packham



What do you do now?

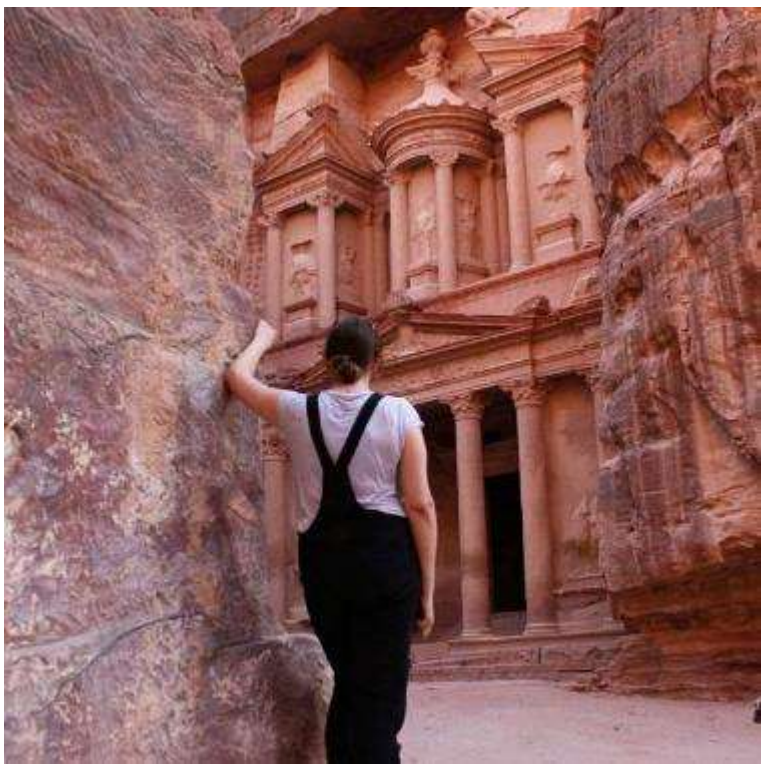
I am currently at a renewable energy company called Ecotricity. My role as a Senior Design Technician is to produce figures and technical drawings to support planning applications and Environmental Impact Assessments for proposed renewable energy developments.

How did you get to where you are now?

What I have learnt in the GIS modules during my degree has laid the foundations for the job I hold currently. I use the techniques taught in my degree to find areas that are suitable for proposed renewable energy developments.

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Sustainability and Development: Flora Maclennan



What do you do now?

I am currently in Amman, Jordan working as a consultant for UNICEF working to integrate Syrian refugees into host community schools.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do so I worked a few odd-jobs before going to Asia and taught English as well as volunteering with development projects. Last year I decided to return to studying and completed a Master's degree. During the master's degree I expanded upon skills that BA Geography at UWE had instilled in me such as critical thinking, project management and ethical consideration which remain crucial to my job now.

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Sustainability and Development: Charlotte Milloy



What do you do now?

I am currently on one of the world's leading leadership programs at GE Oil and Gas. The Operations Management Leadership Program (OMLP) consists of three intensive rotations at different sites around the world.

How did you get to where you are now?

During my degree at UWE, I did an internship with GE Aviation as an Environmental Specialist. It was here that my career started to grow. After university, I completed a graduate scheme at GE Aviation in Cardiff as an Environmental Engineer. I then left to work as an Environmental Consultant at EDF Energy, where I was contacted to apply for the OMLP at GE Oil and Gas. Most importantly, I could not have achieved what I have today without my degree in geography from UWE.

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The Business World

A geographer's skills of being able to work with statistics and quantitative approaches, synthesise information and hold a broader understanding of society can be very beneficial in the business world. This can be further developed if you undertake specialist training after your initial degree in geography, such as in financial services, accountancy or law. So whether working in risk analysis, financial services, auditing, as a lawyer for a commercial enterprise, a commercial location analysis, or running your own company geographers have the capacity to excel in all areas of business. You will find them in all parts of business life from the Square Mile to new start-ups, international corporations to small enterprises and business consultancy.

Read about geography graduates who have entered this sector

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The Business World: Sarah Parker



What do you do now?
I am a qualified chartered accountant (ACA) and I currently work as a senior financial accountant in an academic publishing company.

How did you get to where you are now?
After graduating I spent several months working in various office jobs through a temp agency whilst thinking about what I wanted to do as a career. I decided to apply for a graduate training programme with an accountancy firm. I spent five years with Baker Tilly (now RSM), gaining my accountancy qualifications and lots of experience, before moving to the finance department of IOP.

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The Business World: Alec Watson



What do you do now?

I am a category manager for Glorious! Foods. This involves analysing retail sales performance of products, looking at who is buying them and why, and making recommendations for the retailer.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating I got a job as a commercial analyst for a magazine company, analysing sales, modelling future sales and looking at return on investment on different promotions. After three years I got a role as a commercial executive for a food manufacturer. This analysing sales performance of products. I got a promotion internally and worked as an Implant at Tesco head office before moving to my current role.

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The Business World: Georgina Debenham



Deutsche Asset Management

What do you do now?

I work for Deutsche Asset Management as an Investment Advisor in their Sustainable Investments team. We have a global team and manage a breath of funds inc. African Agriculture and Trade, European Energy Efficiency, Global Social Finance.

How did you get to where you are now?

Working really hard, appropriately communicating, networking and ensuring useful doors remain open. After leaving UWE I did a masters in Renewable Energy and Finance. After an internship I started in consultancy and a successful secondment to Deutsche Bank got me where I am today. I still study and am in the process of applying to business school to complete an MBA.

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The Business World: Louise Pollock



What do you do now?
Accountant.

How did you get to where you are now?
When I left uni, I didn't really know what I wanted to do but I decided to apply for something in finance. I joined the finance team of large law firm and took my CIMA exams while working. I spent 8 years with the law firm starting as an Assistant Management Accountant and then a Financial Reporting Accountant after I qualified. Now I have a family I have joined a small accountancy practice which offers me more flexible work.

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The Business World: Janette Ford



What do you do now?
I'm currently a Candidate Manager for Madison Recruitment in Auckland, New Zealand. My main responsibility is to source candidates for temporary positions for my clients.

How did you get to where you are now?
After graduating I spent a couple of years teaching English in Thailand whilst travelling South East Asia on my term time breaks. Next on my list was New Zealand, I signed up with 4 recruitment agencies when I arrived and was working my first temp job through Madison within 2 weeks. I continued working for them for 5 months, then travelled around the North and South Island in a campervan, before heading back to Auckland to start this position on a permanent basis.

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The Business World: Ali Whitefoot



What do you do now?
I am now a management consultant at Deloitte specialising in finance.

How did you get to where you are now?
After leaving university I joined an accountancy company on a graduate scheme within their audit department. During the three year graduate scheme I obtained my professional accountancy qualification and used that to apply for positions within management consultancy.

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The Business World: EJ Packe



What do you do now?

I am now Managing Director of The Supper Club, an exclusive membership Club for innovative founders or CEOs of high growth businesses. We are based in central London with a team of 15.

How did you get to where you are now?

After completing my BSc I knew I didn't want to go and do a grad scheme but I didn't know what I wanted to do. I worked on a beach in Turkey for 6 months for Sunsail and on my return got a job in media sales, 100 calls a day! I did this for 6 years, leading teams in London and then in Amsterdam. After returning to UK I consulted on a start up at pre-revenue stage. I was then introduced to the founder of The Supper Club by my former MD and the rest is history!

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The Business World: Joel Allen



What do you do now?
I am the operations and real estate manager for Enterprise rent a car, covering South West England and South Wales.

How did you get to where you are now?
Hard work! I joined Enterprise through their graduate management trainee scheme on a whim but soon realized if you worked hard enough this was a company who would reward that hard work. I quickly worked up through the ranks, moving to branch assistant and then branch manager, eventually being promoted to manager of the region's largest store. From here I was able to apply for a department head position and the perfect opportunity came up to move in to the Operations manager spot around my three year anniversary.

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The Business World: James Corah



What do you do now?

I am Head of Ethical and Responsible Investment at CCLA Investment Management. We manage c£8bn of assets for charities, faith organisations and local authorities.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating, I did a Masters degree in Economic Geography. I then did a PhD about how churches made the money that they needed to keep going. CCLA were one of my case studies and, over the duration of my PhD, I met a lot of people in the business. I was very fortunate that, just as I was finishing my thesis, a job as a Research Assistant became available at the company. Over the past 7 1/2 years I've worked my way through the business to where I am today.

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The Business World: Tom Curson



What do you do now?

I'm currently working as a Quality and Compliance officer for BMT, a defence engineering consultancy. I'm primarily responsible for quality assurance within the company.

How did you get to where you are now?

Whilst completing the third year of my undergraduate degree, I applied for an environmental graduate role within BMT. Unfortunately this position was retracted shortly after I applied but fast forward a year or so later, I got a phone call from the HR department at BMT about a graduate role that they thought I would be suited to. I found the role and the work that the company does very interesting, so decided to take the risk and pursued a career in something that wasn't directly related to my degree. Each day is different and I still very much enjoy what I do.

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The Business World: Will Loveday-Lovell



What do you do now?

I'm currently working for Nationwide Building Society as a Customer Representative in my local branch back home in Southampton. I've been there for 12 months now, and am currently studying for exams, externally, to get my Diploma in Financial Advice with an aim to become an IFA (Independent Financial Advisor).

How did you get to where you are now?

I spent the summer working out what career I wanted and decided that I wanted to go into financial advice and saw Nationwide as a good stepping stone to this. Hoping to progress through Nationwide and have passed all my exams in the next 2 years.

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The Business World: Lauren Evans



What do you do now?
I'm working in Corporate Tax in Finance at Barclays in Canary Wharf.

How did you get to where you are now?
I decided to become an accountant as I realised the skills I developed studying geography (statistics, thinking about bigger picture etc) would make me well equipped. Tax involves building knowledge about regimes in different geographies and understanding them to solve problems and be creative. I trained as a chartered accountant at Deloitte, also in Tax.

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The Business World: Vikki Holland



What do you do now?

I direct and support my Chief Fire Officer in his Chief Executive of Public Service Reform role within the West Midlands Combined Authority. I also lead a work stream relating to people with multiple and complex needs.

How did you get to where you are now?

I got here through starting with West Midlands Fire Service as a summer student. I then applied to be a risk analyst for WMFS. Over 6 years I worked hard and built relationships which enabled me to move into a supervisory leadership position. I started another degree programme in leadership and management which enabled me to develop and hone my leadership skills and I recently moved into a strategic management position.

Menu

The Business World: Claire Pepper



What do you do now?

I am a senior manager in Price Waterhouse Copper's legal department, looking after a team of 30 plus people responsible for supporting large corporates. Much of my time of late has been spent looking at the impacts of geopolitical events like Brexit.

How did you get to where you are now?

After finishing my BA Geography degree I did a law conversion course. I got my first professional job at Fragomen - a US law firm based in Chancery Lane as an immigration law associate. I stayed with Fragomen for three years where I support large corporate clients with their strategies to move their staff around the world. I then moved to PWC legal where I have progressed my career since.

Menu

The Business World: Lewis Tolman





What do you do now?
I am a project manager for a software development company. My work is done online and therefore I travel the world, staying in a new country each month.

How did you get to where you are now?
It has been quite an adventure. After graduating from UWE I volunteered for 6 months in Indonesia. After returning to England I had an urge to travel again, so started learning computer languages and other ways of making money online, whilst working full-time at a land law firm doing GIS. Eventually I found a job that allowed me to work remotely and brought a one-way ticket to Thailand, Bangkok. I have been slow travelling and working continuously now as a 'digital nomad' for the past two years and have visited over 15 new countries.

Menu

The Business World: Tim McCarthy



What do you do now?

I am a Business Development Executive for a technology start up in Central London. I provide clients them with innovative technology to sustainably streamline their business practices.

How did you get to where you are now?

UWE Bristol provided me with the transferrable skills that are integral in a corporate business environment. These include, but are not limited to; networking, meeting deadlines, interpersonal skills, technical savviness and a high level of business and commercial acumen. I call on these skills daily to enable me to communicate effectively with intellectual peers and to grasp alien concepts and business jargon quickly so that I am able to perform my job to a very high standard.

Menu

The Business World: Sam Walter



What do you do now?

I'm currently on the business leadership graduate programme for Severn Trent, a FTSE 100 company based in the Midlands providing clean water and waste water services to 4.3 million homes and businesses.

How did you get to where you are now?

When I started working within the business and taking on more and more responsibility, I soon realised that UWE had prepared me more than I thought… What had seemed like a constant of barrage of presentations in my modules had in fact honed my skills to the extent that I was noted as one of the stronger presenters of the group - ahead of those that had studied at Oxford, graduates that had just finished masters and even someone who had been a teacher for three years!

Menu

The Business World: Lizzie Carmichael



What do you do now?
I work for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) in Melbourne, Australia as the team leader of the examinations department.

How did you get to where you are now?
After graduating I did some traveling then when I returned to the UK I fell into working in academic administration at Oxford University, first at Oriel College then at St Catherine's college. I left the UK to travel again and after spending a year in New Zealand, was offered a permanent job with visa sponsorship at RACS in Melbourne. Degree level education was a requirement and my previous experience was also key in me getting the role.

Menu

The Business World: Charlotte Morgan



What do you do now?
I'm now a Business and Marketing Manager at Boat building and Marine Energy Device company in Pembrokeshire (Mainstay Marine).

How did you get to where you are now?
Graduating from BA Geography set me up with the skills to become a Graduate Transport Planner at PFA consultancy in Swindon. Building on this foundation, I then helped Pembrokeshire County Council to implement projects deriving from European Union funding. I then managed an EU project to support the development of small and medium enterprises for the Business Development Consultancy in Pembrokeshire.

Menu

The Business World: Andrew Cansfield



What do you do now?

I am currently a Customer Service Coordinator for Tarmac, based in their office in Flax Bourton. I started there in October this year. The role entails taking orders from customers, placing them on the system and liaising with the planning team.

How did you get to where you are now?

I definitely implement the skills I learnt throughout my time at UWE. These include working within a team dynamic, working to a specific time frame and long-term project management.

Also my degree has helped me stick out from other applicants. Since starting my job, my manager is planning to put me on the internal development programme in order to progress through the company.

Menu

The Business World: Chloe Tidy



What do you do now?

I'm currently a Senior Account Manager at a B2B Technology Marketing agency called Radix Communications. I work with global brands such as AWS, Microsoft, Fujitsu, Nokia to deliver their marketing campaigns.

How did you get to where you are now?

After my geography degree I completed a MSc in Business and Management, where I got a year-long crash course in Marketing, Accounting, Finance, Economics, Operations and Strategy. I honed in on Marketing, and focused on this area for my dissertation - in turn leading me to my first graduate job as a Marketing Coordinator for a Hydrographic Survey company. And finally on to Radix as an Account Manager and now a Senior Account Manager.

Menu

The Business World: Hayley Leung



What do you do now?

I'm a 'Lead Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Specialist' at GE Aviation. The role consists of managing health and safety programs for the site to ensure compliance with legislation and, company policies and procedures.

How did you get to where you are now?

I started my career in EHS as a full time intern during my placement year working for them and I've not quit since! When my intern year was up, I was asked to stay on part-time for another year whilst I was completing final year of UWE. Once I graduated, I joined GE Europe's EHS Operations Management Leadership (OMLP) rotational program and became the first EHS OMLP in GE Aviation Europe!

Menu

The Business World: Danielle Hammond





What do you do now?

I work in the financial services industry as a paraplanner and am currently training as a financial adviser.

How did you get to where you are now?

I was unsure of what I wanted to do after my degree. I saw a job listing for this role and although it was a finance role, my geography degree providing a great foundation for the role due to the nature of modules and assessment (statistics, research methods and the practical fieldwork etc.).

Menu

The Business World: Will Dyer



What do you do now?

I'm now Customer Base Manager UK at Kindred Group in London. I manage the retention budget, marketing and communication strategy of three online gambling brands; Unibet, Maria Casino and Bingo.com.

How did you get to where you are now?

After university, I did some travelling and then returned to Bristol to work for Cyient as a GIS Technician but I realised after 6 months that it wasn't for me. Gambling was something I had been passionate about throughout my university life and I realised I could add value to an online gambling business without any marketing experience. My knowledge of what a customer wants and expects in this sector has helped elevate me to an important position in a fast-growing and exciting company.

Menu

The Business World: Martin Duff



What do you do now?

I work as a Senior Business Development Manager for Secure Meters, who are a £1bn turnover manufacturer and supplier of systems and services to monitor and control the use of energy.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating I worked for an engineering supplier of stormwater and wastewater equipment, working my way up through the ranks over a 6 year period covering a range of technical and commercial roles, mostly focused on developing international markets. I later worked as a consultant for a biological manufacturer looking to enter the water industry, which led into setting up my own consultancy.

Menu

The Business World: Robert Sarkozi



What do you do now?
I am a Transport Manager for the largest Lidl Regional Distribution Centre in the UK.

How did you get to where you are now?
I studied BA Geography and then continued onto MSc Environmental Management at UWE. After graduating I worked for a resource-efficiency company before moving to Lidl where I have the opportunity to exercise the skill set I developed throughout my journey at UWE and elsewhere.

Menu

The Business World: Emily Jones



What do you do now?

HR Casework advisor for Nottingham City Council. My job involves advising managers at all levels regarding employee performance management, attendance management, disciplinaries & grievances.

How did you get to where you are now?

I didn't really know what I wanted to do after uni, so fell into a legal administrator position, followed by an HR Assistant for a private company, and then left for a job in the Equality & Diversity team at Nottingham City Council. I did a secondment into Casework a couple of years ago as a career progression, but ended up being made permanent & I'm still here!

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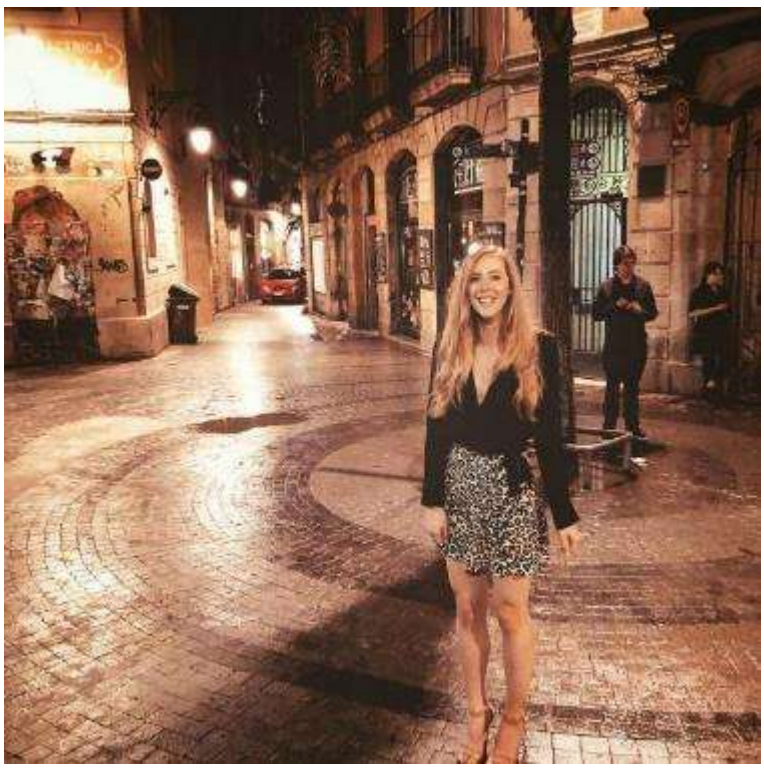
The Built Environment

The places we live in, where we study and work, where we spend our leisure time, and how we move around them are the settings for the interplay of many different human and physical processes. Geographers can understand these different perspectives and their approach can be an invaluable tool in helping to plan new neighbourhoods, and protect or regenerate existing ones. From a small scale housing consultant to an international construction company, from a planning department to landscape management, transport planning to environmental consultancy, you could develop a career focused on where and how people live.

Read about geography graduates who have entered this sector

Menu

The Built Environment: Olivia Beale



What do you do now?

I currently work as a BREEAM (building research establishment environmental assessment method) Assessor and Sustainability Consultant for a medium sized consultancy firm.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating I worked at Pinewood Studios as a Sustainability Consultant for the studio and supporting film/tv teams. I worked here for a couple of years and then wanted to progress into a career that was more environmentally focused. I had to pass a couple of exams during my probation period to secure the job I now do but the company paid for it and it was a great way to gain knowledge of sustainability that related to the construction industry.

Menu

The Built Environment: Mike Carter



NOREGS BANK

What do you do now?

I work in commercial property for Noregs Bank. I reckon about half the people I know in property did geography undergraduate.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating I completed a one year RICS accredited masters in property. I then joined the graduate scheme of DTZ, a global property where I completed over 2 years of my APC and became a chartered surveyor. I was there for a further 2 years working on the RBS/NatWest property portfolio trying to make/save them money. I then joined British Land a FTSE 100 property investor developer. I spent 4 years there and am now at Norges Bank RE Management which is the Norwegian sovereign wealth fund's real estate investment company.

Menu

The Built Environment: Andy Sweetman



What do you do now?

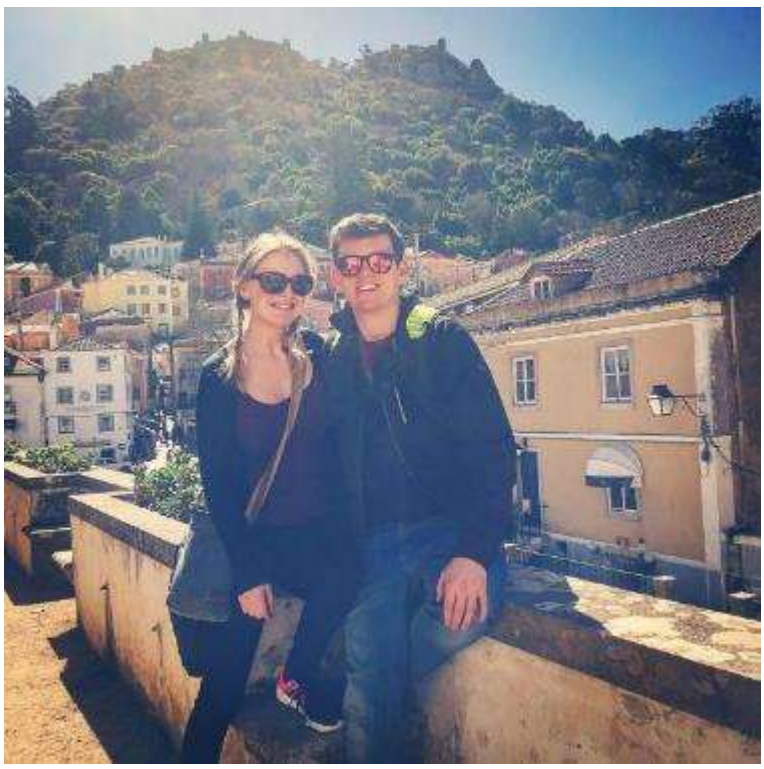
I am currently the Principal Consultant within Arcadis' environmental due diligence team. Within this role I undertake and manage assessments which seek to determine the potential liabilities (i.e. costs) that might be associated with a company or a property.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating I did an MSc in Environmental Management. Following the completion of my MSc I signed up with recruitment agents. One of these got me an interview with a firm called Waterman in their due diligence team. I worked my way from graduate to principal within that team over a period of just over 10 years, before moving to Arcadis.

Menu

The Built Environment: Aidan Wilkes



What do you do now?

I work as a Senior Land Referencer at LRS. I work on a variety of Regeneration projects throughout the country. The most notable I currently work on is HS2.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating, I attended Camp America for 3 months and travelled the USA. I used this experience to travel and try reinforce my application for teacher training. Upon completion of the Camp experience I decided that teaching was not for me. I came across a graduate position working for LRS, I used this graduate scheme as a way to prove myself and was soon kept on indefinitely. I have risen through the ranks in the space of two and half years to the position of Senior Land Referencer.

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The Built Environment: Trevor Robinson



What do you do now?

I have most recently been working within the Hertfordshire County Council Highways department.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating I was on a procurement graduate scheme at GlaxoSmithKline, the pharmaceutical company. I then became head of marketing and operations for a high end internet based estate agency before becoming a self-employed sales manager for a direct marketing firm. All pretty diverse: multinational, small business, self-employed, local government.

Menu

The Built Environment: Mathieu Rogers



What do you do now?

I'm currently an area regeneration manager at Hackney Council. I am a passionate regeneration leader with 10 years of economic development, regeneration and planning policy experience, gained across five organisations, during which I have successfully delivered over £3million of projects. I am a Chartered Planner, a Prince 2 Practitioner and hold a Diploma in Management and Leadership. I have led a wide variety of regeneration programmes, managing business cases from inception to delivery and reporting to council project boards at each stage of development.

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The Built Environment: Dan Trump



What do you do now?

I manage the Road Safety Team for Jacobs in the south west of England, working on nationwide safety schemes for a range of Clients including Governments, Local Authorities, Highways England and private contracts e.g. Hinkley Point C.

How did you get to where you are now?

After leaving UWE I worked for Lloyds Banking Group but felt I wasn't using my degree. After two years I was recruited by Jacobs as a Transport Planner and have been trained by them as a Road Safety Engineer. Jacobs paid for my MSc at UWE in Transport Engineering and Planning and am now pursuing publishing my dissertation with John Parkin.

Menu

The Built Environment: Richard Jenkins



What do you do now?
Planning manager for a housing developer.

How did you get to where you are now?
After graduating I did an Environmental Management MSc at my university. On completion of the MSc, I got a job in the planning department of Buckinghamshire County Council, as a minerals and waste planning officer. Whilst there, the Council sponsored me to undertake the MSc in Spatial Planning, part-time. After seven years at the Council, I started working as a planner for a solar farm developer, involved in all aspects of planning across the lifecycle of commercial scale, ground mount solar farms. I now work as the planning manager for a housing developer, concentrating on high-end properties, and mixed used developments.

Menu

The Built Environment: James Cheeseman



What do you do now?

I'm an Associate Director in the Investment Property Management team at Colliers International.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating, I did a one year MA in Estate Management at London South Bank University. In the second term of the masters, I got a job at Cluttons on the two year graduate programme. During this two year period, I undertook the APC, which is the training scheme graduates need to complete in order to qualify as a chartered surveyor. 18 months post qualification, I moved to JLL to join their Property Asset Management team, and a couple of years later I joined Colliers.

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The Built Environment: Chelsie Stephens



What do you do now?

I am currently in my second year of employment as a quantity surveyor. One more year and I will be chartered. I am studying with RICS whilst in full time employment.

How did you get to where you are now?

The transferable skills that I learnt during my degree mean that it was very easy for me to get started within the surveying industry. I got my current role within a few months of leaving university.

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The Built Environment: Sarah Bradshaw



What do you do now?

I am a Chartered Surveyor working for a national firm based in London. I work with commercial property, mostly shops, offices and industrial warehousing.

How did you get to where you are now?

My main interest whilst doing my geography degree was in the built environment. I didn't really know anything about surveying but stumbled across a brochure for the profession in the careers library. When I left uni I did a bit of work experience with a surveying firm and really enjoyed the variety of work on offer. To become a chartered surveyor, I needed to complete a Masters degree in real estate which I did part time whilst working at my current company. Then I completed my final assessment and became chartered. Never looked back!

Menu

The Built Environment: Fern Lynch



What do you do now?

I am a Planning Officer at Swindon Borough Council in the Development Management team. Day to day I deal with planning applications, appeals, conducting site visits, negotiating amendments and writing reports.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating with a geography degree, I held various environmental roles. I started working as a planning information officer at Bath and North East Somerset Council. Alongside this role I studied part time for an MSc in Urban planning. I moved into a graduate planning officer role within the development management team at Swindon Borough Council. After a year I was promoted to become a planning officer at the same authority.

Menu

The Built Environment: Hannah Hughes



What do you do now?

I am a senior highway design technician working for Gloucestershire Highways, also working towards my Masters in Civil Engineering (part time). As a member of the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation I have a view of becoming Chartered with the Engineering Council within the next 5 years.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating I took on a temporary position as a GIS technician at a gas company, designing projects for a gas mains replacement programme. Having gained this experience I was able to secure a role as GIS technician in the High Asset Management Team in Hereford. As my knowledge of highways increased, I was approached by my now company to take on my current role.

Menu

The Built Environment: Alice Stewart-Cox



What do you do now?
I am a transport planner at the London Borough of Camden.

How did you get to where you are now?
After taking a few years out once completing my geography degree, I applied for a masters at UCL in Transport and City Planning. I did this part-time over two years whilst I worked at a small town planning consultancy. Once I had completed my masters I was in a strong position to apply for the relevant jobs that I wanted as I had two years' worth of relevant work experience and a masters in the field under my belt.

Menu

The Built Environment: Matt Parker



What do you do now?
I am a Transport Planner, and have spent the last two and a half years working for a transport consultancy based in Bristol. I advise clients on every aspect of transport, including highways, public transport, rail, walkingand cycling

How did you get to where you are now?
I fell into transport planning with no idea of how much I would like and enjoy it. I didn't know what I wanted to do after university, so started looking around for jobs. I came across the company I then went on to work for, and was offered a job asan Assistant Transport Planner following a successful application and interview.

Menu

The Built Environment: Sophie Prosser



What do you do now?

I am the Public Realm Officer for UWE. This role is a mix of Environment and Health & Safety work to improve the external environment of UWE's Estate.

How did you get to where you are now?

After my undergraduate degree I took time out to create a life in Bristol. I was always very happy at UWE so when I had the chance to work there I took it. I started at UWE in the Transport team, then the Environment Team (ISO14001:2015) and Health & Safety team. From this it was decided by the Estates and Facilities to blend all three roles into one defined role for me. I have been furthering my education the entire time at UWE through an MSc, NEBOSH and project management qualifications to allow me to progress.

Menu

The Built Environment: Robyn Berry



robyn berry
energy and sustainability services

What do you do now?

I have been the owner of my own business RB Energy & Sustainability Services for 4 years now and love what I do. I get to review design stage architectural plans, suggest ways of complying with Building Regulations and see some fantastic projects being built.

How did you get to where you are now?

First I worked for SITA as an Environmental Compliance Technician covering the South West of England collecting samples to test on closed and existing landfill sites. I then went to work at CEFAS as a Shellfish Hygiene Technician which utilised my GIS and Statistical Analysis skills. I then worked for a House Builders as a Sustainability Consultant before starting my own business.

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The Built Environment: Emily Catt



What do you do now?

I am an Environmental Assistant for Atkins. I have various tasks in my role, from collecting and analysing Air Quality Data, administrating the GIS system with environmental data, depot audits, and writing EIAs.

How did you get to where you are now?

After university I worked as a travel consultant for a year, which then lead to me travelling the world. I was away for two and a half years, and I grew so much as a person! It was something I always wanted to do and was the best experience of my life. Upon returning, I worked as a GIS Technician for Northern Powergrid for a year, based in Yorkshire, mapping out electrical cables and other data onto their system. This experience then lead me to the role I'm in now.

Menu

The Built Environment: Riya Patel



What do you do now?

I am a Regional Environmental Manager at Skanska UK. I cover a range of construction projects including highways and street lighting contracts, and civils projects across the East of England.

How did you get to where you are now?

I tried to get as much experience working in different sectors whilst at uni undertaking internships and working with an external company for my dissertation. After graduating from UWE I completed a Masters in Environmental Management and got my first job as an Environmental Consultant. After 2 years I decided consulting wasn't for me and changed to an in-house environmental advisor role at Skanska. I've worked my way up to my current role and absolutely love it!

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Education

As a teacher you can use your knowledge and passion for your subject to help children unlock capabilities and talents that they didn't even know they had. You'll develop a wide range of transferable skills for yourself in the process, too. In addition to planning and teaching a range of engaging lessons, you can indulge in your hobbies and interests as part of your work by getting involved in after-school clubs, trips or sport.

If teaching appeals to you, there are several alternative ways to become qualified. You can find information on all you need to know about the different routes into teaching here

Read about geography graduates who have entered this sector



Menu

Education: Chris Offler



What do you do now?

I work as a Geography teacher at a school in the south-east where day to day I use all of the knowledge that I built up over the course of my degree. Alongside teaching I have also had the opportunity to take out Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and go on field trips to various locations around Europe.

How did you get to where you are now?

After completing my undergraduate degree at UWE I went straight to Bristol University to complete my Postgraduate Certification in Education (PGCE). Teaching in a couple of schools in Bristol led to me getting a job in Wiltshire, after which I moved back towards home to continue teaching.

Menu

Education: Becky Twist



What do you do now?

I am a primary school teacher, currently teaching part time in Nursery. I was the "Leader for Knowledge and Understanding" which involved leading the teaching of Geography, History, Science and Religious Education across the school, before taking a family career break and reducing hours and responsibilities.

How did you get to where you are now?

I did a postgraduate certificate of education (PGCE) at the University of Birmingham, before getting offered my first teaching role, and then took on more responsibilities within the school as I gained experience.

Menu

Education:
Jack Saunders



What do you do now?

I currently work at Butchers Coppice Campsite and Activity Centre in Bournemouth. I'm an instructor of adventurous activities.

How did you get to where you are now?

I left uni and went into a graduate management training scheme with Mitie Waste, which I quickly realised was far too office based for me so I left after 6 months to start a PGCE. I loved teaching but had enough of the classroom shortly after starting so I moved outside and haven't looked back! After spending a season at an outdoor education centre in Swanage, I found a role that had more responsibility and more flexible hours to fit around my life.

Menu

Education:
Dan Morrice



What do you do now?

I am a geography teacher at St Mary Redcliffe, my perfect school - a high achieving, inner city, mixed comprehensive, with a huge sixth form. They asked me to set up a new A-level in World Development and that became my primary role, alongside geography

How did you get to where you are now?

I took a BSc in Geography at Nottingham Uni, intending to study physical geography, but became increasingly interested in International Development over the course and ended up investigating the effectiveness of child sponsorship in Uganda for my dissertation. I started to think that this was the field for me, so I decided to do a PGCE and teach Geography and World Development.

Menu

Education:
Callum Foster



What do you do now?
I am a researcher and Associate Lecturer in GIS, cartography and spatial analysis at UWE.

How did you get to where you are now?
I became really interested in GIS and cartography in my first year at UWE which prompted me to successfully apply for a placement year at the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office. This, combined with achieving a first-class classification upon graduation helped me get to where I am today, advising research projects at UWE who want to incorporate GIS into their analysis and information dissemination and leading lectures and practicals on cartography and GIS.

Menu

Education: Hayley Broadbent



What do you do now?
I am currently Phase 3 Lead, Teacher of Year 6 and Geography Subject Lead at a Bristol primary school.

How did you get to where you are now?
Following graduation, I was accepted onto the PGCE Secondary Geography programme. After achieving Qualified Teacher Status, I moved to London where I taught Geography at secondary level for three years, but recently moved back to the West Country, and I made the transition to primary teaching.

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Education:
Pip Caie



What do you do now?

I work with children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities.

How did you get to where you are now?

After graduating from UWE I used my degree to teach English in Vietnam. I then used my experience working with children to gain a role in an Autism specific school as a Teaching Aide in Melbourne, Australia. From there I moved to Wellington, New Zealand and got a job in a school for students with profound physical and intellectual disabilities before getting a job as a support worker for adults with disabilities.

Menu

Education: Gemma Cauchi



What do you do now?

I am currently in Hong Kong teaching English to 2-8 year old's and it's brilliant.

How did you get to where you are now?

After I graduated I did 1 year of a PhD but it really wasn't for me. I then worked for WYG for three years as a Geo-Environmental Engineer specialising in Contaminated Land. I spent most of my time out on site supervising works. I then moved to Arcadis for two years before the opportunity to move to Hong Kong with my boyfriend came up. It was a huge decision to make but the best one I have ever taken. I have been so lucky to tick off 3 new countries visited in my first 6 months here and have 2 more planned!

Menu

Geographical Information Systems

It is estimated that 10% of the British economy is reliant on the use of geographic data collected by the Ordnance Survey and the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) company Esri UK is part of a $1 billion international business based on geospatial data. Geography and geographical information is at the heart of decision making; from planning to utilities; emergency services to defence; business and government; planning new sports stadia; and disaster preparedness to environmental planning.

Geographical information and its application powers the sat- nav used to deliver your pizza order, the multimillion pound businesses which determine risk and insurance, and the maps available to all of us on our smart phones. This is a growing industry, both in the UK and overseas, which has geography and geographers working at its heart..

Read about geography graduates who have entered this sector

Menu

Geographical Information Systems: Abbie Pearce



What do you do now?

I'm a Graduate GIS Consultant at AECOM. My day-to-day role is essentially managing databases and producing technical maps for large scale developments with departments such as, Air Quality, Acoustics and Ecology.

How did you get to where you are now?

I really enjoyed studying GIS during my degree. This led me to complete a placement year which was focused on it, and this not only helped me improve my skills, but provided me with a years' experience in working in a professional environment. In my final year I applied for graduate schemes for large companies, and due to my prior experience I was able to stand out from other candidates.

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Geographical Information Systems: Tom Patterson



Walgreens Boots Alliance

What do you do now?
I'm Senior Geospatial Analyst at Walgreens Boots Alliance, heading up the Geospatial Analytics Team in Nottingham.

How did you get to where you are now?
After graduating I spent a year doing work experience for two planning consultancies in Bristol. I then enrolled on a Geographical Information Science Masters degree. I then worked at Experian for 7 years as part of their Global Data Product Development team. Eventually I decided that I wanted to work for an end user, building in-house tools and sharing insights across a large organisation to make a visible impact on performance and understanding, and the Boots job came up at just the right time!

Menu

Geographical Information Systems: James Norris



What do you do now?

I'm currently working for the NHS in the South Central and West Commissioning Support Unit as a GIS Analyst. I provide decision makers with the tools and analysis to effectively allocate funding for various services based on service and demographic patterns.

How did you get to where you are now?

I would not have gained these opportunities if it wasn't for foundation blocks the degree at UWE provided. If you have an interest in a certain field or want to gain a broad spectrum of skills and knowledge, the lecturers will give you everything you need to develop. The course enhanced my confidence with public speaking and team work and prepared me for my career.

Menu

Geographical Information Systems: Joshua Thomas



What do you do now?

I've recently started working for Wales and West Utilities in their Asset Management department which primarily consists of looking after their extensive pipe network by mapping it, keeping the database up to date (which is a mammoth job in itself) and doing network analyses for current networks and future networks.

How did you get to where you are now?

This is my first role after graduating. My line manager and her manager have both told me that the main thing on my CV that appealed to them over other candidates was that I had experience with GIS especially ArcMap, data analysis and spatial analysis.

Menu

Geographical Information Systems: George Gregory



What do you do now?

I am a GIS technician at Wessex Water in Bath. I help keep the assets database up to date, which includes sewers, supply pipes, sites etc. I also provide maps on request to internal customers.

How did you get to where you are now?

I did a dissertation that involved lots of GIS, which helped a lot. After graduating I spent a year at the UK Hydrographic Office in Taunton, first as an intern, then as a permanent role. That led me to apply for my current role.

Menu

Geographical Information Systems: Jess Dyer



What do you do now?

I manage a portfolio of geospatial products for Ordnance Survey which cover the themes of transport & water.

How did you get to where you are now?

I came into OS on their graduate scheme. I moved into a technical product role, specialising in transport & water, where I developed my technical skills in using geospatial data and understanding data models alongside continual development of soft skills including communication, influencing and stakeholder management. I put myself forward to lead on projects which challenged myself, worked closely with demanding customers and gained respect for my expertise in my specialist areas which opened up the job I have today.

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Geographical Information Systems: Rebecca Willey



What do you do now?

Currently I work as an Assistant Modelling Engineer at Atkins in Bristol. I use specialist software to model the clean water network throughout our towns and cities.

How did you get to where you are now?

I use GIS such as MapInfo and ArcGIS every day, both in my current job and in my previous as a waste water modeller. These are vital to process and manipulate data and are the basic for aiding with design and modelling. This is a skill which I learnt the basics of on my course, which enabled me to develop these skills quickly in my job. Aside from this the soft skills developed on the course enable me to have a good work-life balance, as well as and not exhausted to working with different people, managing time and finding what interests me.

Menu

Geographical Information Systems: Camil Andrei



What do you do now?

I am working as a data analyst and flight operator for a GIS company that provides line of sight analysis to various customers. My responsibilities include the analysis of the raw data that is brought in from the flight crew and is converted into 3D models, as well as being in the helicopter and flying around the UK collecting LiDAR data.

How did you get to where you are now?

After my finishing my course, I found my current position via UWE's Infohub system and have been here for five years. My role has allowed me to make new friends, work with some other UWE geography alumni, learn a lot of new skills, and see a few places that I always wanted. I'm looking forward to what the future holds.

Menu

Geographical Information Systems: Will Wilks



What do you do now?
I am currently employed by Skanska as a GIS Data Capture Technician.

How did you get to where you are now?
After finishing university I managed to land a volunteer based role at the Red Cross HQ, as a GIS analyst. During my time there we worked on many things but most notably the spread of the Ebola outbreak. This job made me realise that I would enjoy a career in GIS. My current role with Skanska is great as there is very little office based work and I have the ability to work to my own schedule.

Menu

Other

Geography graduates possess a wide range of highly employable skills such as: critical thinking; data collection; data analysis; verbal communication; written communication; problem solving; team work; time management.

These skills prepare geography graduates for a wide range of career types that don't necessarily fit into any of the previous categories.

Read about geography graduates who have entered this sector

Menu

Other:
Jack Burgess



What do you do now?

I'm a pilot with British Airways. I fly the Boeing 777 on long haul routes across the world to North and South America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

How did you get to where you are now?

After finishing my geography degree I trained to be a pilot in New Zealand and the UK over two years. I then joined easyJet and lived in France for 2 years flying for them before joining British Airways. There was a lot of self-study during the training and doing a geography degree, and in particular the dissertation, helped prepare me for that. And I can read a map very well.

Menu

Other:
Hannah Lawton



What do you do now?
I'm currently the Talent ID Coach for the GB Rowing Teams Paralympic Programme.

How did you get to where you are now?
After leaving UWE, I got a scholarship with British Rowing for coaching. Whilst completing the scholarship I also undertook an MSc in Coaching Science, a UWE course at Hartpury College. The scholarship was over 2 years and involved coaching juniors from a grass root level in the West Midlands. Upon completion of this, I took part in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, a 3,000 mile rowing race from La Gomera to Antigua. Not long after my return to the UK, I applied for my current position and was successful. I now help find and develop the next generation of Paralympic Rowers.

Menu

Other:
Helena Liszka



What do you do now?
I am currently the Collections and Exhibitions Manager at the Bank of England.

How did you get to where you are now?
After my geography degree I did a Masters in Museum Studies. During and after my Museum Studies MA I did a lot of unpaid voluntary work and internships - at local museums, the British Museum, the National Trust etc. Although it can be difficult financially the voluntary work does help you to decide which area of museum work you want to focus on. I focused on Collections work and my first job was a Curatorial project officer at the Jewish Museum London. I then went on to be Collections Assistant at the Bank of England before moving to my current role within the same institution.

Menu

Other:
Sophie Thomas



What do you do now?

I am working for the University of Bristol as their BUCS and Sports Coordinator. I'm involved in sports club development, analysis surrounding performance and its sustainability, and involvement in organising Varsity.

How did you get to where you are now?

After I graduated I covered the original post at UoB temporarily for a few weeks and then had to apply for the full time post through a formal interview. Some things that I feel helped me get the job were my experiences working at UWESU (as was) within the sports department, my involvement with a sports club committee at University and things like presentation skills from my degree.

Menu

Other:
Natalie Parsons



What do you do now?
I am a full-time professional dancer and choreographer based in Hong Kong

How did you get to where you are now?
After graduating, I studied a PGCE in Secondary Geography at University of Bristol. After gaining my teaching qualification, I taught in an outstanding high school in Harrow, London, for three years. I then moved to Dubai, U.A.E, and taught Geography at an international school for a year. I then decided to pursue a career as a professional dancer in Dubai, and have recently continued my dance career in Hong Kong. My greatest achievements include dancing for artists such as Drake, Sia, Jessy J, Tinie Tempah, Steve Aoki, Hardwell, Tiesto and many more.

Menu

Other:
Sarah Corker



What do you do now?

II am a Broadcast Journalist for the BBC. As the Business Correspondent for BBC Look North in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire I report on a wide range of stories from industry and economic news to debt and personal finance for TV, radio and online..

How did you get to where you are now?

For my dissertation I interviewed the **breakfast presenter from** BBC Radio Cumbria about the BBC's role during a public emergency. I soon realised journalism was a job that would play to my strengths - I'm inquisitive, determined and enjoy talking to new people. I went back to university to do one year masters degree in broadcast journalism. Best decision I ever made.

Menu

Other:
Philip Zych



What do you do now?

I've been with Wiltshire Police for over 5 years and I am a qualified Armed Response Officer, as part of the Tri Force collaboration, helping to protect communities in Gloucester, Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire.

How did you get to where you are now?

After my degree I applied for a job with the Environment Agency, but unfortunately I didn't get it. I stayed in retail whilst applying for the Police and managed to join Wiltshire Constabulary. My degree gave me an advantage particularly during the application process as well as in the interviews, where I could demonstrate hard work, commitment and the desire to learn and take on challenges.

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