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Alexander Poynter, MSc Air Pollution Management and Control

What are you currently doing? Can you give a brief description of what you did from graduation up to now?

I proceeded straight from the MSc course to study a PhD in hydroecology at the University of Birmingham.

Can you give a short outline of the course you studied at the University of Birmingham and how it benefited you?

I studied the MSc in Air Pollution Management and Control. The course was well run and contained plenty of modules that would be valuable for a career in air pollution consultancy. It also allowed plenty of opportunities to improve research skills – something I have found increasingly useful! Whilst not directly beneficial to the PhD topic I am studying, the MSc did provide me with a wealth of transferable skills and knowledge, without which I'm not sure I would have been ready to take the next step up to PhD level.

How was going to university generally beneficial to you?

Apart from valuable life experience, I have developed a great range of transferable skills and abilities that will prove greatly beneficial whatever the avenue I decide to take. I also made several great friends from my time at Birmingham, all of whom I know I will be in touch with for many years to come.

Any tips or words of wisdom that you would like to pass on to other students thinking of coming to study here?

Get involved with University life outside of the course you are studying. Whilst it is important to put the time into your studies, it will make your time that much more enjoyable if you make the most of the other activities on offer at the University. This will also help make friends and build bridges for the future!

What are your aspirations for the future?

At the moment, my biggest aspiration is to complete my PhD successfully. After that, I'm not quite sure where my path will go – I like the idea of lecturing and continuing my research career, but I also see the benefits and appeal of working as an ecological consultant.

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