

Laura Sanderson, MSc River Environmental Management



After graduating from my [MSc River Environmental Management \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/gees/river-environmental-mgt.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/taught/gees/river-environmental-mgt.aspx) * at the University of Birmingham, I took a bit of time out to travel South East Asia before joining Royal Haskoning.

I am currently a River Scientist within Royal Haskoning's Coastal and Rivers Division in Solihull. Since joining the company 3 years ago, I have been involved in a range of project work, developing a broad understanding of hydrological processes, hydraulic modelling and flood risk management. Most recently, I have taken on the role of Project Manager for numerous commissions including several Strategic Flood Risk Mapping projects. My skills are constantly growing, as I have recently been involved with the economic appraisal and design of a flood storage reservoir.

I am also the Vice Chair of the Midlands New Members CIWEM Group. I work with the committee to organise events and raise money around the Midlands.

This MSc has proved hugely beneficial to me. One of the modules gave me the opportunity to work with a professional consultancy, giving me the chance to apply my skills in the work place prior to getting a job. My tutor encouraged me to join the Chartered Institution of Water & Environmental Management (CIWEM). Being a student member before I joined Royal Haskoning has given me a head start on the chartership scheme.

Going to university was one of the best things I have ever done. It not only enabled me to live independently away from my parents, but it enabled me to fulfil all of my intellectual aims and enhance my social life. Throughout university I joined sporting clubs and groups that I would not have been given the opportunity to have otherwise. In my current role, I am confident to make decisions and stand up for myself of which I think my experiences at university are to thank.

I aim to become a Chartered Member of the Institution of Water & Environmental Management (CIWEM) within 2011. Following this, I would like to see my career in flood risk management develop to allow me to manage larger projects and larger teams.

* This course is now called MSc River Environments and their Management