Some of 2018-19 cohort of Plymouth University Environmental Consultancy MSc students at Mount Edgcumbe during induction week.

Where possible we work with local and national consultants, governmental bodies and NGOs to provide our MSc students with true-to-life examples of key environmental consultancy skills used routinely with UK and world-wide consultancies.
Welcome to the February 2019 issue of the MSc Environmental Consultancy newsletter

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OFUndertaking an MSc in Environmental Consultancy?

We live in challenging times. Over exploitation of natural resources, climate change, pollution and habitat destruction are just some of the issues that threaten today’s society. We are desperately seeking ways of reducing our impact on the planet on a global scale led by UN initiatives and governmental implementation. Modern environmental management and regulation is heavily controlled by directives and procedures that are constantly being updated and reviewed. Developers looking to run projects require assistance in complying with regulations and regulators need help in generating and implementing new standards. There are over 400 companies offering environmental consultancy services in the UK, of which more than 100 earn environmental fees of more than £1 million per year. The MSc Environmental Consultancy programme at the University of Plymouth was the first of its kind in the UK and has evolved over the ten years since its inception to train ‘oven ready’ environmental consultants fully prepared for the workplace. It is a dynamic vocational programme taught by practising professionals and working closely with all parties within the environment sector, with emphasis on real-life scenarios, associated with environmental impact assessments, field studies and regulation. An eight week placement is a core feature of the MSc where you have the opportunity to be fully embedded within a consultancy or other environmental organisation. Our alumni can be found working throughout the consultancy and environmental management sector, which is testament to the success of the programme.

Dr Sean Comber, Programme Manager.

A recent report (ENDS Directory) of the UK Trade and Investment organisation heralded the “UK as a World leader in environmental solutions”

- Environmental Consultancy is worth £1.5 billion per year in the UK
- There are 440 companies offering environmental consultancy services in the UK, 126 of which earn environmental fees of more than £1 million per year

Our MSc Environmental Consultancy degree is designed around preparing students for a career in the field of environmental consultancy whether in the commercial sector or for the environmental regulator – after all we are all working towards achieving the same aim – environmental protection.

Job profiles for Environmental Consultants states: “Ideally, a work-based placement through an employer will build the best contacts and experience” and “In addition to a first degree, applicants often have a relevant postgraduate qualification or work experience in the field they are interested in.”

1 https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/environmental-consultant
There is strong emphasis on practical skills, contemporary issues, impact assessment and the opportunity to undertake placements in industry, which can also lead to employment opportunities. Students readily find jobs in all sectors, for both governmental and commercial organisations.

Growth areas identified over the last couple of years in the UK and overseas are (ENDS Directory Consultancy Market Guide):

- Energy
- Waste
- Construction/property
- Oil and gas
- Manufacturing
- Water
- International bodies
- Mining and metals

The world faces a challenging future set against climate change, resource demand and industrial pollution. With a Master's degree in Environmental Consultancy from University of Plymouth, you can help provide solutions.

Environmental Consultancy MSc students have access to state of the art analytical instrumentation for use in the field and laboratory for dissertation projects, working alongside research active staff and PhD students.
WORK EXPERIENCE

The MSc is geared towards providing you with ‘real world’ experience during your 8 week placement (which can lead to permanent employment) of working with organisations who manage our environment including:

- **Marine ecology and conservation** at GoBe, Royal Haskoning DHV, Natural England, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Marine Biological Association, RPS
- **Environmental consultancy** at Pell Frischmann, WSP, Atkins, Aecom, Royal Haskoning-DHV, White Young Green, Arcadis, Black and Veatch, Ramboll, Mott MacDonald
- **Catchment management** at the Westcountry Rivers Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England as well as Tamar, N Devon, S Devon, Blackdown Hills, Cornwall Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- **Ecology** at FPCR, Richard Green Associates, EAD ecology, Blackdown Environmental, Acorn Ecology

Ross Singleton of consultants WSP discusses possible placements with Plymouth students
Where are our graduates now?

Work placements can often lead to full time employment upon graduation. Our former students are working at a variety of consultancies and NGOs.

Chris Rowett (WSP - Exeter) – Senior Environmental Consultant

Chris completed an Environmental Science degree at Plymouth before undertaking his MSc Environmental Consultancy in 2014-15. He undertook his placement at Parsons Brinkerhoff just before the merger with WSP and secured a full time job there for September 2015. Chris’ training and practical experience at the University of Plymouth has provided the knowledge and techniques required for his role as an Environmental Consultant. This includes an understanding of environmental law, policy and planning, pollution, impact assessment and sustainable development. Chris has supported various environmental projects including EIA and SEA, as well as having undertaken numerous site and desk-based impact assessments and audits.

What the professionals say about our course:

Nicola Simpson, Associate Director, Marine Ecology - RPS Energy said recently “We’ve been recruiting recently, for Marine Environmental Consultants. We have been very impressed with graduates from the MSC Environmental Consultancy course at Plymouth University, and wanted to, in any case, send our congratulations on providing students with a MSc’s that it so well-tailored for our industry. The placements provided, and the practical experience of undertaking an EIA, were particularly noted.”
Where do our Graduates find jobs?

Our graduates find jobs across the whole environmental sector, from large and small consultancies, to NGOs, charities or go on to do PhDs.

Our Environmental Consultancy MSc students have been particularly successful in the past few years in securing jobs within the environment sector set against a challenging economic climate. A large proportion have gained jobs within consultancies as well as with NGOs, Government/regulators and within teaching and academia.

Placement lead to jobs

90%+ of students get jobs in Environment Sector within 6 to 12 months of completing their masters, many at their placement organisations

We have an excellent employability record for our students, driven to a large degree by their 8 week placement during March to May of their MSc course which provides the opportunity to contribute to projects, meet clients, write reports and in a number of cases each year this has led to a full time job at the same company. Our students have gained employment in the last 2 years at for example:

- RPS
- Atkins
- Arctadis
- Royal Haskoning-DHV
- Arup
- Black & Veatch
- Ramboll
- FPCR
- Land Use Consultants
- Environment Agency
- Mott MacDonald
- WSP
- Richard Green Associates
- EAD
- Ricardo
- Wessex Water
- Solar Southwest
- GoBe
- MBA
- Maydencroft
- IFCA
- OHES Environmental
- Westcountry Rivers Trust

“As one of the UK’s largest environmental consultancies, we are always on the lookout for good graduates that can bring something new to the business.”

“WSP have had a long relationship with the MSc course in environmental consultancy at Plymouth and the course has provided lots of placement students for our technical teams – such as Ecology, Contaminated Land and EIA. Many have gone onto secure permanent positions with us and have risen through the ranks to become senior members of staff.”

Ross Singleton
Director – Environment
WSP
(BSc Environmental Science University of Plymouth 1984)
RESEARCH NEWS - STAFF PUBLICATIONS

Students get the opportunity to work with world class experts in all aspects of environmental science. Our research is published in high quality international scientific journals covering marine, freshwater chemistry, ecology, ecotoxicology and catchment management. We are involved in numerous local catchment restoration projects where MSc students have undertaken research projects as part of their study, with the intention of publishing the data produced:


So if you have already, or will soon graduate with a 2i or better in a science related degree, typically Environmental Science, Marine, Biology, Geology, Geography (other degrees/qualifications will also be considered on a case-by-case basis) check out our website for more details and for the on-line application form or contact me for further details.

Contact us:
Dr Sean Comber
B525 Portland Square
Plymouth University
Drake Circus, Plymouth
PL4 8AA
Tel: 01752 585974
e-mail: sean.comber@plymouth.ac.uk
website: https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/msc-environmental-consultancy