



## Charlotte Baltruschat

BSc(Hons) Environmental Management,  
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Graduate Assistant Ecologist, Environmental  
Division at Mott MacDonald

### Working at Mott MacDonald

Working in the Ecology team for consultancy firm Mott MacDonald, Charlotte Baltruschat has the opportunity to get involved in a range of different projects. A number of these focus on ecological surveys, which have covered reptiles, macro-invertebrates, badgers, bats and habitats, amongst others.

*'Many surveys require training and so I have a level 2 powerboat licence certificate, which enables me to use a boat to carry out surveys. I also work closely with the hydrology team and carry out monthly groundwater and lake-water monitoring, which involves visiting many sites and downloading loggers situated within water or from boreholes.'*

When not out on site, Charlotte is involved in survey analysis and report-writing, supporting the team with on-going work and ensuring that all work is completed to the specifications of topical environmental policies.

### An entry to ecology

After graduation, Charlotte initially took a part-time job whilst she was job hunting, which also allowed her to continue volunteering with the RSPB. Luckily, she received a job offer with Mott MacDonald as an Environmental Technician before the end of the summer. Eight months

later she was made full-time and promoted into her current role as Assistant Ecologist.

Charlotte credits her placement year as being instrumental in getting her the role she is currently in. *'The most precious benefit from doing a placement year is meeting new people and gaining new contacts – my placement got me my job, due to the work I did and the people I knew.'* Her placement also allowed her to try what she had learnt on her degree course in practice and she still uses these skills today. *'My degree helped me enormously through different mediums. As well as providing the overall knowledge base required to go into a relevant career, it also provided general life skills in preparation for full-time work, which were emphasised by presentations and research methods.'*

### Future plans

It is clear that Charlotte loved her degree and time at University. *'I would happily re-do the degree and continue to recommend it to many people! I would advise students to ask questions all the time – use your lecturers and get everything you want to know out of them. Don't be quiet and shy, and get involved with debates and discussions within lectures; a new approach to learning can come from someone sitting next to you.'* At the moment though, Charlotte is focusing on developing her role at Mott MacDonald and seeing where her career takes her.



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