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 ongoing 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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