I found the Marine Environmental Management MSc to provide a brilliant introduction to the many areas of scientific and social interest associated with our seas. The lectures cover a broad range of theoretical aspects and always invoke great discussion among the class. Many modules also involve fieldwork and the writing-up research reports. The research dissertation allows the student to choose a research question they are most interested in and tackle it a professional in-depth level with the support of their supervisor. Then, the coral reef management course allows the student to gain valuable experience in underwater surveying whilst obtaining an in-depth knowledge of coral reef ecology and issues in their management. Finally, the summer placement allows the student to spend two months with an organisation of their choice. For me, this topped the course off and has opened many doors in terms of job prospects and PhDs.

Post script 2010

Indeed my summer placement did ultimately lead to a PhD which is following on from work I started then. I began the PhD in May 2011 and will be investigating the effects of closing an area in Lamlash Bay, Arran, to fishing activity.

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