There were so many things that I enjoyed about the Marine Environmental Management Masters course at the University of York. In the first week there were events organised by the Environment Department, for instance, a day trip to Whitby to give students the opportunity to get to know other people on the course and to meet the academic staff in a more informal setting.

An aspect of the course that I enjoyed was that it was so varied. Due to the modules that I chose, I learnt the course content through a combination of lectures, seminars, computer workshops, lab sessions and field trips. I also appreciated the choice of the modules that were on offer, which allowed me to choose topics that really appealed to me. For instance, I am very interested in the field of ecotoxicology and I was able to take the optional ecotoxicology module as part of the Marine Environmental Management course. This was one of my favourite modules and because of the experience and knowledge gained from it I was then accepted to do an ecotoxicology-based project based in Sweden for the Summer Placement module.

The Summer Placement module was a highly enjoyable and unique aspect to this course and definitely a personal highlight of the Marine Environmental Management degree! I liked the freedom of organising the Summer Placement project whilst knowing that the academic staff at the University of York were always on hand to talk to about potential placements.

All in all, this Master’s degree was exactly what I was looking for and I believe I have made some lifelong friends on the course. The degree has given me valuable new skills and hands-on experience, and will hopefully help me to begin a career in marine conservation.