MEM MSc Testimonial 2014/15

Before deciding to enrol onto the MSc course I spent time looking at various different courses. I had previously done a degree in biology and knew I was interested in ecology and marine conservation but was unsure which course would be suitable. I wanted a course that was diverse enough to let me discover which areas of research I was interested in whilst providing experiences and knowledge that would make me employable. I found that this course provided all this and more.

The content is diverse and lecturers are approachable and encourage discussion which I really enjoyed and benefited from. The small departmental team are caring and willing to offer guidance over anything. There are a broad range of modules to choose from that allowed me to explore my interests, and the core modules instilled an understanding of the most fundamental issues relevant to marine conservation. I greatly enjoyed all the modules; in particular I enjoyed both my dissertation and summer placement. For those with a clear idea of what you might like to research the course allows you to develop your own thesis title, however, for those who aren’t sure they provide a good range to choose from.

Before the MSc I had not had much experience with stats and had bad experiences in previous courses. I was really impressed with the stats teaching at York, they began from the beginning and allowed me regain some confidence. The Maldives field trip was fantastic, whether you have dived a lot before or not at all, it was an amazing place to see. For my summer placement I was based in Scotland where I looked at the effects of construction activities on marine mammals in the Moray Firth. The experience I gained from this ultimately led on to me getting a job not too long after finishing.

When I started the course I really didn’t know what to expect, but over the year as my knowledge broadened I discovered many fascinating and exciting topics to research. The enthusiasm of both staff and students helped encourage me to explore and develop my interest in marine conservation, and ultimately decide that this is the field I want to develop my career in. I would highly recommend this course to anyone interested in the sea or has a passion for environmental issues as you will find it greatly rewarding. The course was one of the best years at university I have had, where I met some fun, like-minded people to enjoy it with!