Gwyneth Tanti – Testimonial

Student from Malta

2012/2013

Coming from a very small island in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, I was always fascinated by the marine environment. During my undergraduate degree in Geography (completed at the University of Malta), modules on oceanography and marine ecology were covered; triggering further my interest on the subject, not to mention the important role the Maltese waters have on the islands’ culture, socio and economic aspects. Consequently I started looking for a Masters degree which enhances my knowledge and provides me with the right skills to put into practice.

After visiting various Universities in the UK, the one that struck me the most was by far the University of York and the beautiful city of York. Campus is very welcoming and the Environment Department staff are very friendly and supportive. The structure of the course is well organised and offers a variety of modules. You need not have a first degree in marine biology, as all the basics are taught in specific modules for people without. During the course one will learn about the history and evolution of the marine environment, management tools and technologies, existing threats to the sea and initiatives to combat these. Skills in geographic information systems (ArcGIS) and ‘R’ statistical environment are also taught, which come in quite handy when working on dissertations, summer placement and future jobs. The course provides a variety of skills through the various lectures, practical/lab sessions, seminars, group work and fieldtrips, such as the two week trip to the Red Sea on coral monitoring, which provided students with field techniques using both snorkelling and SCUBA. There are many study areas and computer rooms on campus and within the department and the library itself.

The course involves a lot of hard work but if you love to learn more about the marine environment and what you can do to help improve the conditions of our seas, than this is the right course for you.