

Blog entry

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My placement at the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull.

I enjoy both practical and theoretical work so I didn't mind either way what sort of placement I had. I had promised myself at the beginning of the masters, that I would try all modules and topics that I had not tried before and had little knowledge of, so that I would leave having gained the most knowledge I could. I decided to join the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal studies (IECS) at the University of Hull as the institute conducts a very wide range of research and therefore I had lots of different options when deciding what to focus my research on.

The EU referendum result had just been decided and I had little knowledge or experience of environmental politics and so it was the perfect opportunity for me to produce some original research and learn more about politics at the same time. It was an exciting time to be working at another academic institute as the referendum result was highly controversial and unexpected and academics were already exchanging frantic global emails to other scientists, legal experts, and governments, asking for advice and guidance on what to do next.

My placement was definitely the highlight of my degree. The staff were absolutely wonderful and the whole institute very welcoming. Nothing ever seemed to be too much trouble and I was offered many opportunities to work with staff from other research departments. As I have a big passion for seabirds I was invited to Scotland for a week's seabird surveying around the beautiful Isles of Bute, Arran, Islay, and Jura. I also helped occasionally with breeding Kittiwake surveys in Bridlington, where harbour developments are planned.

My placement may not have been the typical far away exotic placement many imagine, but for me it was perfect. I gained invaluable knowledge of politics which is an absolutely essential part of managing marine environments. Furthermore, I have networked and created invaluable ties that could lead to jobs and contract paid work.

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If you wish to stay in the UK, want to attend a placement where you can work with friendly people, are treated as a professional member of staff, and have a wide range of project options, I would definitely recommend IECS.