

# Student Hub: Advice for Students



**Amber Connett**

**BSc (Hons) Conservation Biology graduate and CIEEM Policy and Communications Intern**

*What advice would you give other students who want to study in this field?*

To anyone struggling to fit work experience around their studies, I would highly recommend taking that year out whilst still within the support network of the university, as getting stuck into a full-time placement gives you a real opportunity to experience the work and get to know whether it is right for you! If a placement year is not possible, joining relevant professional bodies, attending training courses and volunteering with local organisations or businesses also offers invaluable experience and allows you to build contacts who may help with further work experience.



**Alex Pelton**

**Third year BSc Countryside and Environmental Management student at Harper Adams University**

*Why did you choose to study this course and how has CIEEM helped you along your career journey?*

Numerous reasons exist for me choosing to study this course: the desire to work in the environment sector; engaging course content; and excellent graduate employability. At Harper Adams, each student must undertake a work placement. Placements are an invaluable way of learning and developing industry specific skills. A year of experience, skills and qualifications gives students a major advantage over students who haven't received the same opportunities. Studying a CIEEM accredited course has allowed me to connect and network with potential employers, it aided me in finding a placement and being a Student member of CIEEM gives me the opportunity to take part in subsidised training courses.



**Amy Lovegrove**

**Final year student at The University of South Wales studying BSc Natural History**

*What is your career goal and do you undertake any extra-curricular activities to help achieve this?*

After graduating next year, I'm hoping to go on to do a masters and PhD in ecology, having strengthened my interest in environmental conservation during two internships abroad. I also volunteer with local conservation charities, so I can learn more about fieldwork and how habitats are managed, and to gain more experience so that I can work in ecological research in the future.

This is such a competitive field, so for someone pursuing a career in this area, I'd say that getting as much voluntary experience as possible is a huge help as it will develop important skills such as surveying and taxonomic identification. My internships have taught me that it's one thing to be able to understand the theory in a university environment, but it's totally different working in the field!