

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences

*Hear the personal career stories of our own  
Geography graduates at...*

# GEOGRAPHY FUTURES

MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 3-5PM  
ASTON WEBB, ROOM WG5



**careers and  
employability centre**  

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### Schedule of talks

Time	Speaker
3.00- 3.10	Jim Reali, Internship Officer - Welcome and Introduction
3.10- 3.25	Victoria Raiment Graduate Environmental Consultant (Water), URS Scott Wilson
3.25- 3.40	Geoff Hart UK Human Resources Manager, Vaisala
3.45- 4.00	Victoria Clipsham Coastal & Rivers Scientist, Royal Haskoning
4.00- 4.15	Jeremy Swanson Data Analyst, Environment Agency
4.20- 4.35	Katie Kershaw Senior Urban Designer, Node Urban Design

**4.35 – 5.00 - Informal Q&A session**

To reserve a place at this event go to  
<http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/careers/college/les.shtml>, scroll down  
to events for Geography students and follow the instructions.

## Profiles of Speakers

### **Victoria Clipsham – Coastal and Rivers Scientist, Royal Haskoning**

Victoria is a Coastal and Rivers Scientist in Royal Haskoning's Water Management UK division, based in Solihull. She started her career with Royal Haskoning in 2006, based in the Peterborough office, working mainly on coastal strategy and engineering projects. The main project she was involved in during her time in Peterborough was the Wash Shoreline Management Plan 2, performing the role as Coastal Scientist and Assistant Project Manager. In 2009 she moved to the Solihull office, taking on a Project Management role for a number of fluvial projects, including Project Appraisal Reports for flood risk management schemes.

### **Geoff Hart – UK Human Resources Manager, Vaisala**

Geoff graduated from this university in 1988 with a BSc (Hons) in Geography. Since then he has worked for Vaisala Ltd., the UK subsidiary of a global organisation with headquarters in Finland. He provides a 'full generalist HR service' to the 70 UK employees of Vaisala. This means everything including HR administration; learning and development; reward management; recruitment and selection; discipline and grievance; redundancy; health and safety; and talent management. He is also involved in global projects for Vaisala HR such as implementation of e-recruitment systems; performance and development cycle activities; and top level talent management programs. As a senior leader in Vaisala UK, the role also encompasses aspects of finance, quality, environment, communications and facility management.

### **Katie Kershaw – Senior Urban Designer, Node Urban Design**

Since graduating from the University of Birmingham's Geography course in 2006, Katie Kershaw has worked as an urban design consultant and undertaken two post-graduate qualifications in Urban Design and Historic Environment Conservation. Katie works for Node Urban Design Consultants, for whom she provides urban design and heritage advice to a variety of clients, including local authorities, landowners, major house builders, private investors, large scale retailers and institutions such as healthcare providers and educational establishments. This primarily involves the creation of masterplans and supporting material for planning applications.

**Victoria Raiment**

Victoria studied for both her undergraduate degree ((BSc (Hons) Geography)) and her Masters (MSc River Environmental Management) at the University of Birmingham.

She moved up to Leeds within 5 months of her MSc graduation to work for Scott Wilson as a Graduate Water Scientist. She has worked on a diverse range of projects including pollution incidents, flood risk assessments, water cycle studies, geomorphological assessments and habitat restoration. Large projects that she has been involved with include the Mersey Tidal Power Scheme, Drain London and Thames Tideway Tunnel. She has recently transferred to the Flood and Water Management team in Chesterfield as a Graduate Water Consultant to work on more flood risk and modelling projects. In the past 12 months the company has been acquired by the US company URS and is currently known as URS Scott Wilson, soon to be URS.

**Jeremy Swanson**

Jeremy works currently for the Environment Agency as a Data Analyst in the West Midlands; he has worked here for the past five years. Prior to this, Jeremy worked for Vaisala Ltd (formerly Vaisala TMI) an internationally renowned environmental meteorology company, where he rose to the level of Thermal Mapping Operations Manager. Jeremy joined Vaisala upon graduating from Coventry University in 1990 with a degree in Geography. He started as a Thermal Mapping Operations Assistant, undertaking detailed surveys of highways and airports worldwide, identifying how the thermal properties of the survey routes changed under differing weather conditions, to help optimize winter treatment strategies employed to keep the systems operational and free from ice and snow.

## How to kick start your career.....

What is your dream career? What job would suit you best? Where would you most enjoy working? Every student asks themselves these questions and many don't explore the many opportunities open to them.

**Career development** has a different meaning for everyone, depending on where you are starting from. This section will enable you to discover your potential and the career options you can access!

**Environmental Science and Environmental Management students gain an impressive range of skills from their degree that make them highly employable.**

**These include** research skills, problem solving, competence in developing arguments from different points of view, the ability to plan and manage projects which might include time management, risk assessment and teamwork, the ability to gather, analyse and communicate complex and often diverse technical data to others, developing both written and oral communication skills; field survey techniques needed for specific environment-related jobs; the flexibility to work in all kinds of environments, developed through field-work experience and an understanding of the application of statistics and measurement techniques. This impressive combination of skills gives graduates a real edge when competing with graduates from other disciplines.

**Find out more about the skills you've gained from your degree on Progress via [www.my.bham.ac.uk](http://www.my.bham.ac.uk)**

**It helps to be clear in your own mind what you have to offer and what you want from a career before you select a career that will be right for you. You'll need to look at your strengths, skills, interests and values in all the aspects of your life: your course, your work experience, your extra-curricular activities etc. You can then start to identify what you are good at, how you prefer to work and your main interests.**

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**Find out more about who you are and what makes you tick by browsing the “Know Yourself” page on Progress via [www.my.bham.ac.uk](http://www.my.bham.ac.uk).**

**Find out more about how you can get ahead – browse the Work Experience pages at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/internships](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/internships)**

Some students find making a choice about their career path easier than others, depending on how they make decisions and keep the momentum going. If you find yourself avoiding making decisions and losing interest, the following tips may help - <http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/careers/choosing/steps.shtml>.

**Finally there is a dedicated careers team working in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences to support you with your career development.**

**If you want to make an appointment to see a Careers Adviser to discuss your plans and review options or discuss your CV /applications or internship queries then refer to the [College of Life & Environmental Sciences careers page](http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/careers/les) for further details - [www.as.bham.ac.uk/careers/les](http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/careers/les).**

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