

TUTORIAL 7: YEAR 2 OPPORTUNITIES

The primary purpose of this tutorial is to think ahead in terms of opportunities and options available in year 2 and beyond.

2.1 INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENT OPTION

The optional Diploma in Professional Practice (DPP) is a work-based learning experience that takes place between the second and final years of your degree programme. You work in an organization (company, local or central government or voluntary organization) under the supervision of an Industrial Supervisor, supported by our School's DPP Coordinator.

In addition to the DPP qualification, you gain substantial experience of work in a professional area, which adds to your CV. Work placement has a proven link to gaining professional employment and is one of the most effective things you can do to improve your job prospects after you graduate. The placement lasts between 25 and 48 weeks and most positions come with a salary.



'Placement gave me the opportunity to taste the real world and make contacts with organizations and individuals already working in environmental management or conservation. I really did feel part of the team and was treated as such. I developed communication and presentation skills through the many presentations I delivered. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain from a placement.'

Chris Madden, BSc (Hons) Environmental Science

Want to learn more about your options?

To learn more about industrial placement options: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/employability/jobs-and-placements/placement>.

You can also follow links from the School of GES - Student Support Area (Undergraduate) on Blackboard for more school-specific links on work placement. See: Optional Placement Year - All Courses.

The DPP coordinator our School is Dr Wes Forsythe: w.forsythe@ulster.ac.uk

2.2 STUDY ABROAD OPTION

Study abroad allows you to undertake part of your Undergraduate degree outside of Northern Ireland at one of our Partner Institutions, through the International Student Exchange Programme (ISEP) or on the Study USA programme.

According to Ulster University, reasons to study abroad include:

- Strengthen your existing skills and develop new ones. A new educational setting will require you to build upon your learning processes, and a new routine will push you to adapt and develop new skills to cope with the change.
- Add value to your degree. Studying at a university abroad will mean you are able to take classes not offered at Ulster. Doing so will give you the opportunity to extend and diversify your learning experience.
- Experience new cultures. The opportunity to travel and explore will give you a wealth of experience that you can bring home.
- Enhance your employability. Having demonstrable experience of living and learning in another culture is often prized by employers, especially international companies.
- Improve your language skills. What better way to learn a language but to live it? Even if you aren't taught in your host language, your day-to-day interactions will help you swiftly build up knowledge and vocabulary.



'Reflecting on my year abroad in Alicante, I genuinely had the time of my life and made friends for life. It helped me mature and taught me a lot about different ways of life and cultures.'

Matthew Mulligan, BSc (Hons) Geography

Why Study Abroad?

According to 'Gone International: Rising Aspirations' (2022):

- 91.6% of students who go abroad obtain first-class honours or an upper second-class degree.
- Students who go abroad get better degrees and better jobs.
- Students who go abroad are more likely to be in a graduate job six months after graduating.
- Students who go abroad earn 5.5% more six months after graduating.

Want to learn more about your options?

To learn more about study abroad options, visit: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/goglobal/study>

The DIAS coordinator in our School is Dr Sara McDowell: sp.mcdowell@ulster.ac.uk

2.3 GES CAREERS BLOG – FOR JOBS, VOLUNTEERING AND PLACEMENTS

Check out our Careers Blog for opportunities to help you grow your career. Sign up to get the latest news on jobs, volunteering, placements, and training: <https://www.ulsteruniges.com/careers>

2.4 RESIDENTIAL FIELD SCHOOLS

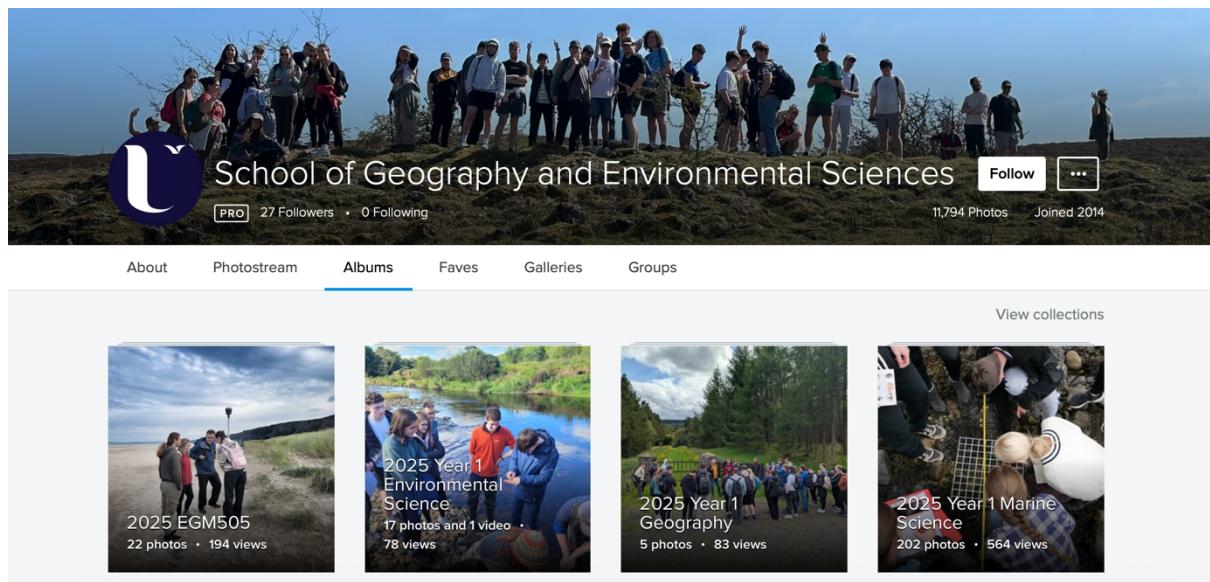
In the second semester of second year, you will participate in a week-long (5 days, 4 nights) residential field school, normally in teaching week 11.

Environmental science students currently explore the Lower Lough Erne region in Co. Fermanagh, marine science students investigate the evolution and functioning of Mulroy Bay in Co. Donegal, and the geography students delve into the physical and human geography of Edinburgh and surrounds. Field trip locations are subject to change.

You are expected to contribute approximately £200 (also subject to change) to the running of the field school, which covers accommodation and travel. If you are worried about making these payments, or envisage difficulties in being able to do so, you can apply to the Student Hardship Fund for potential support <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/student/fees/hardship-fund>.

Preparatory sessions will take place prior to the field schools, and you will be required to attend. The briefings will include information on the academic programme of the field school, administrative information including travel and accommodation arrangements, advice and information regarding the destination and important health and safety information.

You can view photos and videos from past field schools on the GES Flickr site:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/128289200@N08/albums>



END