



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

**SCHOOL OF  
BIOLOGICAL  
SCIENCES**



## **BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES - CAREERS AND WORK PLACEMENT INFORMATION (ENVIRONMENT, MARINE AND ZOOLOGY)**

### **Degree Programmes with integrated work placement**

BSc Biological Sciences  
BSc Marine Biology  
BSc Zoology  
(the above courses are also offered as  
MSci)  
BSc Environmental Management  
(RICS accredited and placement is  
integrated within this course)

### **Work Placement Options**

Placement is carried out after completion of Stage 2 of the degree programme. For many students this is the most important aspect of the degree, enabling them to experience the types of jobs which are available on graduation.

- Option one - 16 week full time placement to be carried out between Easter and September.
- Option two - Your degree is undertaken 'with Professional studies' based on a full time 46 week placement to be carried out after Stage 2. After completing placement you return to your studies to complete your degree programme.
- Full time means working a 35 hour week.
- Assessed as an integral academic component of the degree programme.

- Students have responsibility for finding their work placement supported by the Placement team within the School.

### **Types of placement you can undertake**

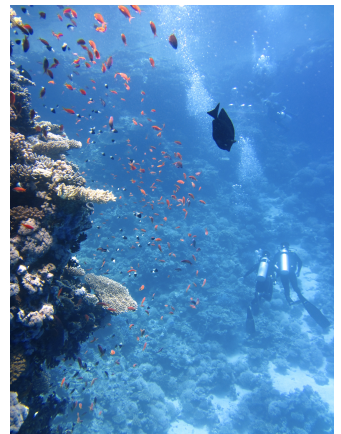
Students seek work placement and graduate opportunities across a range of sectors;

**Environment (Protection and Conservation)** - environmental monitoring and protection, habitat management, field survey work and data collection, site management, species protection, invasive species identification and treatment, creation of biodiversity action plans and input into environmental impact assessments, plant and crop science, environmental education and outreach, application of policies and legislation, laboratory based environmental analysis.

**Environment (Industry related)** - waste and resource management, environmental and ecological impact assessment work linked to development projects, contaminated land, industry maintenance and monitoring of environmental regulations, environmental management systems (including ISO 14001), energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, sustainability initiatives, environmental consultancy and advice provision.

**Animal related** - animal welfare and behaviour, protected species, animal rehabilitation projects, animal nutrition, species habitat management, application of relevant directives and legislation, animal related charities, research and development, laboratory based animal analysis.

**Marine related** - marine area protection and conservation, survey and sampling work, water quality monitoring, population studies, field and desk based research, marine consultancies, coastal management, aquaculture and fisheries management, lab based marine related research.



## Benefits in undertaking work placement

- Improved chances of securing a graduate-level job
- A clearer understanding of what career you want to do, or not
- Opportunity to integrate academic theory and practice
- Makes you more employable – develop transferable and technical skills
- Experience of the job application process
- Increased confidence, motivation and professionalism
- Start to develop your own networks and contacts - Get acquainted with experts in your field
- Valuable insights into industry culture and commercial awareness
- Heightened self-awareness through reflection
- Experience of other countries, cultures and languages

## Support in finding a placement

Students are supported in their search for placement by a dedicated School Placement and Careers Adviser. The School has developed relationships with employers who advertise and recruit our students on an annual basis. Our students undertake placement locally, nationally and internationally.

Support for students seeking work placement includes:

- Timetabled programme of workshops during Stage 2 supporting students through all stages of work placement and including module requirements and the academic requirements related to work placement
- One to one career guidance appointments - available weekly to help you make decisions about work placement and how this relates to life after graduation and options with your degree



- Preparation of CV and cover letters - guidance on completing application forms
- Preparing students for placement interviews, including interview technique and mock interview support
- Dedicated points of contact for students before, during and post placement for administrative and academic issues
- Students have access to a school specific web based placement management system and associated resources have been developed specifically for our students
- Suitable placement vacancies are sourced and advertised. In addition students have access to previous placement information
- Sessions with students who have completed work placement

All work placements are assessed within a module which contributes a mark towards your degree classification.

All placements are quality assured by the academic Module Co-ordinator, Dr Karen King (k.king@qub.ac.uk), to ensure students will have appropriate responsibilities to allow graduate level skills development.

## Examples of previous employers

- Action Renewables
- Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (NI)
- Amey
- Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre
- CEDaR (Data recording)
- Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (Ulster Museum)
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
- Farran's Construction
- Graham Construction
- Harnas Wildlife Foundation
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- KS Animal Sanctuary
- Loughs Agency
- Marine Institute
- Martin Luther University Halle Wittenberg (Germany)
- McQuillan Envirocare
- National Trust (NI)
- North Cyprus Society for Protection of Turtles
- Northern Ireland Environment link
- O'Hare and McGovern
- Queen's University Belfast Marine Laboratories
- RSPB (NI)
- Randox Veterinary Diagnostics
- RPS
- Seagate
- Seal Rehabilitation and Rescue Centre (Netherlands)
- Teagasc
- Ulster Wildlife
- Washington State University
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust



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**For more information please contact:**

Mark Gallagher, Work Placement and Careers Adviser  
School of Biological Sciences  
(incl Institute of Global Food security)  
Queen's University Belfast  
Email: m.gallagher@qub.ac.uk