

## Charlotte Hammond

**Charlotte Hammond** is an environmental consultant and ecologist/ ecological consultant (having just started up this side of the business for the company she works for alone) as well as a BREEAM assessor (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method, a measure of a building's environmental performance)

### **1) *What did you study? When did you graduate?***

From 2009-2012 I studied a BSc (Hons) Geography at Coventry University. I did my masters which was the taught MSc Environmental Bioscience in a Changing Climate at the University of Warwick and finished that in 2013

**Compared with other students for whom going to university was more likely to be expected:**

### **2) *Did you experience any additional challenges with settling in and getting started?***

It was more that I am the first person in my family to go to uni. I had however always wanted to go to uni. I am an only child so moving away was weird, as it is for everyone, but I just made sure I was outgoing and got involved with my flatmates in halls as much as possible. I don't know as there were any other challenges. Some of the things which I found out a bit late was the differences between teachers and homework and lecturers and assignments. If you need more direction you can ask the lecturers what they are after, whereas with homework teachers will be very closed with the advice they give you.

### **3) *Did you experience any additional challenges in thinking about, planning and organising for what happened for when you finished?***

I wanted to be a vet, I didn't get the grades, so I had to go through clearing. Cue a few years of a Geography degree, me not knowing what I wanted to do when I finished and me questioning whether I should continue with the degree or change. We had a silly module at Coventry about work and jobs, we had to write an assignment on our future plans and do a CV aimed at it. I basically poured my heart out into it about the fact that daily I would change the career I wanted – the feedback I got was that it was clearly evident this was the case and I got a horrifically low mark. It wasn't until I was trying to get a job where my Geography degree would actually be used that I saw lots of people starting to state Masters were desirable, so I thought if I don't have a job by the end of the summer I'm applying for one. I had heard about Ecological consultancy and started to go out on surveys with people so I thought how could I make this something for me to do. Obviously, working with wildlife etc. and outside to me tied in with wanting to be a vet as I am still helping animals etc., just in a different way.

**4) *What advice or reassurance would you have for current students coming from an atypical background or facing additional challenges?***

You may have additional challenges, but everybody will be facing their own challenges you don't know anything about. When you get to uni you have made it, even if there were people doubting you, or you didn't expect to get there. So you deserve to be there and you can do it, don't ever think different. Everyone is in the same boat, some have strengths where you may have weaknesses, but you will excel elsewhere. Don't worry about people thinking about you having additional challenges etc., because unless you tell them then no one will know. Get a good group of friends in all your lectures as dependent on courses the modules may have different people in and in your halls too – mine were 5 sets of 11 flats on 4 floors and I knew people from all over the building so if someone was out on my floor there were other people I could go and see if I needed to.

My Twitter and Instagram: [@LOtt4i](#) I also use the hashtag #Precologist

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