

Jasper Keupink – Environmental Protection and Management

My name is Jasper Keupink, I used to study ecology and marine biology in the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, that's where I'm from. I study Environmental Protection and Management at the University of Edinburgh.

Environmental Protection and Management is structured basically around a few core modules. Eventually you start with other electives and you can really choose where you go. You can go any direction, really, you decide. It's a quick programme, only a year. The chunkiest part, the hardest part, is definitely the dissertation. You have to choose your subject, and it's quite long, it's a few months, so that's the biggest part.

My dissertation was about modelling pollutant movement through an ecosystem, in the mine in Tyndrum in particular. It was interesting **(01.00)** because I had to come up with a subject and then work on it for an extended period of time.

The most interesting thing I learned at the university of Edinburgh was definitely the dissertation. Writing a large piece of work like that was something I'd never done before, and it was really nice to get to know yourself, really, and how you handle such a piece of work. It all comes into place and it's really nice, so that was the best thing I learned.

Edinburgh University in particular is a really esteemed university. Additionally, it has a really good careers office, they send you emails and you get a lot of job postings around your email even after your graduate. That's really useful because they help to get you active in the job market.

Additionally, the city of Edinburgh is a really nice city to live in. It's really cosmopolitan, there are a lot of cultures here and they seem to be really accepting towards everyone. During my post grad, I really found that I'd like to continue in academia. So, right now **(02.00)**, I'm applying for several PhD positions.

Environmental Protection and Management is all about learning about how to manage the environment from a really broad perspective. It really depends on what you choose. You can go to how to model pollutants or how to handle pollutants or how to clean up pollutants, as well as managing animals, farms, waste. It really depends on what you want and what you're interested in.

We have people that are really interested in atmosphere quality, and they focus on that in their dissertations as well, and we have people who are really interested in the social aspect of it, so they go out on the street and interview people about green spaces in the city. It's everything that has to do with 'green' and management, that's what it's all about. Whatever you do and whatever you like, for everyone there's something to do.