

Kathryn Murphy – MSc GIS and Archaeology

My name is Kathryn, I'm from Canada, and I'm studying the MSc Geographical Information Science and Archaeology programme.

The field of archaeology is really moving forward with GIS and I really wanted to make sure that I had the skills that people are looking for in the field, so coming to Edinburgh, where they have the really good GIS programme was going to be very beneficial for me trying to get jobs in the future. That's why I chose the programme.

I chose the University of Edinburgh because it's based in a really fantastic city where there's always lots going on. I'd visited a few times before and was really excited to have the opportunity to live here for a year. I also chose to come here because the programme itself is so fantastic. It's quite distinguished in the field and you get a lot of options as far as your courses go, so I was really excited to have the opportunity to take **(01.00)** as many classes as I wanted to in the areas I was interested in.

My dissertation is a GIS and archaeology dissertation, I tried to balance the two in the project. I was looking at a site in the Scottish Borders called Rubers Law, which is a large hill that has an extensive archaeological history. I was looking to place that hill in the Roman context by using GIS and visibility analysis. I also went down to the site and conducted some fieldwork, and flew a UAV over the site so that I was able to make a 3D model of the hill and its archaeological features and was able to do some analysis using that model.

I would recommend the University of Edinburgh to other students because you can really focus your studies and really get down to a project, especially for your dissertation, that you're interested in focussing on. You also get to work with some fantastic professors who are the top in their field. You are getting the best education you possibly can whilst **(02.00)** also studying what you're really interested in.

We have excellent access to facilities to do our geographical information work here at the university. We have a dedicated postgraduate computer lab with all the up to date software on the computers, that we have access to 24 hours a day. We also have access to field equipment, so, GPS units, UAVs and other things like that we can use for our dissertations. You can get some experience using those for the future.

After finishing this programme, I'm now looking for work in the UK and am hoping to stay here for the next few years getting some work experience. Ultimately, I'm planning on going back to school to get a PhD and applying more of this GIS I've learned here at the University of Edinburgh into my future studies and work. The GIS programme at the University of Edinburgh includes a field trip up to Kindrogan in the highlands. We do this fairly early in the semester, **(03.00)** at the end of October. We get together in groups and develop a project we can complete over four days while we're in the field, and we collect data and do some analysis, which we then have to put together in a presentation to present to the other groups. It was quite a bit of fun, we had a little Halloween party while we were there and really got to know each other outside of class but while we were still doing some school work. It was quite a bit of fun and everyone really looks forward to it every year.