

William Roper, MSc Geographical Information Science

My name is William Roper. I'd lived in Edinburgh for ten years before starting the GIS Masters, which I've just graduated from.

I decided to study GIS because I wanted to develop my technical skills in that area. It was a subject area that I'd had a long interest in. My undergraduate was in Social Anthropology, and through that I developed an interest in a wide range of places and people, but it lacked some technical skills that I wanted to develop. The Masters at Edinburgh offered me the opportunity to develop those.

My dissertation was working with an NGO called TIDE in Belize and looking at fire management in savannas where they work **(01.00)** in South West Belize. In particular, I was using remote sensing imagery from land satellites to detect fires and create a history of where the fires had happened over the last ten years.

The best thing about the University of Edinburgh in particular is its integration with the city of Edinburgh. Edinburgh's a fantastic place to live, I'd lived here for ten years before I started studying here, and the way the university is really a part of the city is one of its great strengths. Of the course in particular, I would say it was the fellow students who created an incredibly positive atmosphere in which to learn, with a lot of mutual support rather than competitiveness.

My plans for the future are, I've just secured a PhD with funding at the University of Edinburgh to look at how crofters, who are small tenant farmers in Scotland, can register their crofts **(02.00)** on a new map-based register using smartphone technology.

I would recommend GIS at Edinburgh if you're considering it because it gives you an incredibly employable skillset, it's taught extremely well by people with a wide background in different aspects of the extremely broad GIS field. You can customise it to whatever your interests are, and the student classes are small and extremely supportive.