

## Libby Mansell is a Lawyer

What A Level combination did you do?

Maths with Statistics, Geography, Biology, French A/S

Why did you choose Geography at University?

Because it provided a combination of my favourite subjects ie Geography and Biology, offered an opportunity to travel and allowed me to follow a broad range of interests in both physical and human geography.

At which University did you read Geography?

Jesus College, Oxford

When? 1999-2002

Do you have any post-graduate qualifications? Please list:

Post Graduate Diploma in Law ( Conversion Course)

Legal Practice Course

Please give an outline of your employment history after graduating (most recent at the top):

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer- Trainee Solicitor

Royal Geographical Society- Acting Programmes Officer

What skills do you think you have developed through studying Geography?

Ability to multi task ie be involved in lots of different issues at once.

Approach problems with a holistic attitude rather than looking at just one issue

Understanding of scale and how things operate on a variety of levels

Research skills- lots of books to read and libraries to visit!

Literacy skills- lots of essays!

Do you think Geography has helped you with past/current jobs? How?

Yes- it helps you to be a more interesting person and therefore more attractive to employers, plus you are able to demonstrate a broad range of social, political and economic skills and knowledge which would not have been gained in a purely narrow vocational degree

What advice would you give a 6th former who is good at Geography and considering studying it at degree level?

It is better to study a subject which you enjoy and are good at than one which you think will be good for a future career. None of fellow geography peers have been prejudiced by having studied geography rather than law or economics for example.

Are there any other ways you feel that geography and your career structure may be linked?

Not as yet- I'll keep you posted!

Do you feel that studying Geography has meant you could reach your career goals? Why/why not?

Yes, because it was something that I was enthusiastic about and could therefore talk about with confidence in career interviews. It has also lead me to travel widely and appreciate different cultures which my employer appreciates. In my law firm as many non law graduates are taken on as those who have studied law, so by choosing geography I was able to spend 3 years studying a subject which I loved and still go into a legal career!