I studied geography at GCSE, A Level and through to BA Geography at Plymouth University. At university I ended up focusing on the social aspects of geography, especially socio-economics and urban demographics which have helped in my current job. I’ve always loved travelling and after a year working abroad I settled in London and started this position in January 2014.

**What does your role entail?**
Certitude is a charity that supports people with mental health problems and learning disabilities across London. I work closely with caregivers and our frontline staff to write concise, effective proposals for new contracts and funding opportunities to further our work as a social care charity. These applications form the bulk of my work and to ensure the quality of these I regularly meet the people we support to explore how they experience our care, finding out what they like or don’t like about our services so we can improve. I also volunteer with my charity, taking our service users cycling twice a month and organising social events. Helping people is really important to me and it’s really satisfying when work that I’ve done has a positive impact on the lives of others.

**How does geography help you in your everyday work?**
Geography teaches you so many skills that are relevant in the professional workplace. Analytical research, report writing, understanding connections – geography provides a great opportunity to learn these. For me, understanding and creating connections between varying pieces of information is really important. For example, how does the care the person receives in a care home in East London relate to a football course for young people with learning disabilities in central London? I have to be able to create links and discuss them effectively as this is a core attribute of geography.

**Advice to someone thinking of taking geography further**
The great thing about geography is its diversity. The skills you gain from a geography degree are transferrable to just about any role you can imagine. Regardless of whether you enjoy humanities, ‘hard’ sciences or more theoretical subjects, geography will have something for you.

**Other geographers working in this sector include:**
- Advanced Skills Teacher
- Chief Executive, Lake District National Park
- Fundraising Officer, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Her Majesty’s Prison Service
- Livelihoods Project Officer, Save the Children
- New Business Officer, Macmillan Cancer Support
- UN Strategy Branch, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Women’s Outreach Worker, Together Women Project

**Further support**
**Details of undergraduate courses:** For more details of the range of geography courses offered by universities and how you can enhance your application to higher education see www.rgs.org/studygeography.

**Join the Society at www.rgs.org/joinus** As a GCSE or A Level pupil you can become a Young Geographer and benefit from up-to-date case studies, a subscription to the *Geographical* magazine, viewing lectures by leading geographers online or at the Society and you can also include your membership in your personal statement.