



Going Places with Geography



Society

Thomas Davidson

Business Development Manager, Certitude

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

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.