

Kimberley Waugh

Applied GIS and Heritage Tourism

**Royal
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Society**
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Advancing geography
and geographical learning



Name: Kimberley Waugh
University: Edge Hill University
Course: BA (Hons) Geography

Throughout my time at university, I have studied a range of physical and human geography modules that I never expected would link into geography, leaving me with highly transferable skills that have made me employable. In my final year I studied **Applied Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Heritage Tourism**, which were super helpful in helping me break into the heritage sector. I never expected that GIS could be geography focused, I learnt basic to applied skills, adapting to both physical and human geography. I did maps on crime through to flooding and an independent project on heritage. I also got the chance to go on fieldwork to London, where I saw GIS in the workplace such as in the Thames Tideway project. Other modules included Sustainability and the Global Built Environment and Geomorphology, these topics explored people and their connection to the environment and how geomorphological processes work. There was also fieldwork in Amsterdam (tourism focus project), Liverpool (land use focus) and Langden Valley (rivers focused, mapping). Overall, my interest in GIS and heritage led me to complete a dissertation on the Industrial Heritage and Identity of St. Helens, using GIS maps and focus from my heritage module, which some people assume is just history, but it is not! It is more about that connection of people and their environment and that generational difference of education.

Geography at university has more choice than at school, there is more choice of modules, fieldwork and topics of assignments. You get to explore your interests, not what a curriculum tells you too. Geography is a fantastically broad subject that covers a lot of ground and has links to everyday life, making it easy for graduates to get a job in the subject. It really connects you to people, places and spaces and makes you appreciate the land you walk on much more.

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