

Molly Callow

Glaciology

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Name: Molly Callow

University: University of Liverpool

Course: BSc (Hons) Geography

My name is Molly, and I am in my third year at the University of Liverpool. Currently I am studying a glaciology module looking at the processes of glaciers and what they tell us, especially when it comes to current climate change. Some of the assignments have involved investigating why a glacier has changed over a period of time and what factors indicate this; whether certain ice sheets are unstable and what this could mean globally and locally; and also looking at features left by now extinct ice sheets and what this tells us about how it previously behaved. I studied glaciers at A-Level, but nowhere near at the same level as at university, by experts in the field.

Seminars where we discuss other geographer's work and discuss further implications, are really interesting and put our studies into the context of the 'real world', which is not something I did prior to university. Lab work was something I previously did not even know was part of a geography degree and is now one of my favourite parts (along with fieldwork)! Many other subjects have no hands-on work, only lectures and seminars, which is what makes this degree so special.

Geography at university feels like you are actually learning and discovering things for yourself, with the possibility of a fieldtrip in the far future. At university you will use the same advanced geography equipment as the experts out in the field and feel like you too can actually make a difference.

The variety of topics you can study at BSc and BA Geography means that many people have different specialised interests. For example, I am writing my dissertation on renewable energy in Morocco. Some of my friends on my course are looking at the age of trees in a local forest; veganism and its impacts on the environment; peoples taste in house music based on location; impact of COVID-19 on air pollution from travel; and the classic... measuring a river and how it behaves. This just demonstrates the variation you get within one subject.

When I told people, I was going to study geography at university, many people asked what I could do with that degree and presumed I just wanted to become a geography teacher. Personally, I chose the subject because I enjoyed it but was not fully sure of what I would do once I graduate. However, hearing from lecturers and guest speakers that come into the university, my eyes were opened to the many opportunities and career paths associated with this degree (largely because of the breadth of the skills you will gain during your three years of study). Which is why I would encourage anyone interested in the subject to consider geography at university level!

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