

Marie-Claire Jalaguier

Fieldwork using environmental sensing

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Geographical
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Advancing geography
and geographical learning



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Before studying Geography at university, I didn't realise that researchers could use low-cost sensors for environmental research. I had assumed that collecting data required expensive, complicated equipment. King's teaches students how to build their own low-cost environmental sensors with Arduino technology that can be used in **fieldwork** across the world from the UK to Colombia.

Environmental sensing teaches us additional (and extremely useful) coding skills that I never thought I would be developing in a Geography degree. I was able to apply these skills in one of my research projects investigating the effect of Green Walls on air quality around London and built a low-cost Arduino sensor to collect ambient pollutant data. I think it is incredible that we can conduct environmental research with open-source technology and affordable data loggers. It is incredibly rewarding to spend time building the equipment that we use to have a deeper understanding of how our equipment works and how it can help us monitor and address environmental issues.

Overall, Geography is an incredibly engaging discipline and covers such a wide range of topics that you can explore and discover what sparks your passion. I would definitely encourage students to consider pursuing Geography at university to gain a huge range of skills and knowledge - you will have the time of your life!