

James Clements

Geographical Analysis

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and geographical learning



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A key module I have studied at university which challenged the stereotypes of Geography was **Geographical Analysis**. One of the assessments in this module involved actively conducting key research methods in Human Geography, such as Interviews and Participant Observation. Students were taught the basics of these methods in lectures, and then given the chance to practice them in seminars, before actively going out into the field to interview people and observe their behaviour. The assessment was very flexible; I decided to interview students about alcohol culture on campus, and then observe how students used their smartphones on a Students' Union outing to the Northumberland countryside. Other students observed completely different environments for their Participant Observation, such as a coffee shop. Finally, students had to compile their findings into a report for the assessment.

Overall, doing this assessment has been a real highlight of my degree so far, and as I'm sure you can tell, is clearly not what you'd imagine when you think of Geography. Geography at University is so broad, and gives you the freedom to study the areas you want – Physical, Human, or a mixture of both. As “the study of the world”, it allows you to research, talk about and write about almost anything related to the world in which we live. For that reason, the range of skills and knowledge you can gain through studying Geography is perhaps wider than any other degree discipline. So, considering all these benefits, I strongly encourage you to #choosegeography!