



## Geography Past Pupil Career Profile Loreto Grammar School

**Name:** Caoimhe O'Neill

**Dates you studied at Loreto Grammar School:**  
Sept 2003 - June 2010

**A' Level Subjects Studied:**  
Geography, Religious Studies and ICT

**Third Level Course/ Training Programme/ Qualification (with location) undertaken after leaving Loreto:**

BSc Geography- Queen's University Belfast

MSc Leadership in Sustainable Develop - Queen's University Belfast

NEBOSH Certificate in Construction Health and Safety - BMAC Training, Crumlin  
Currently completing a NVQ Level 5 in Occupational Health & Safety

**What attracted you to this course?**

I've always loved geography throughout my time in Loreto and wanted to continue to study it as it offered the opportunity to learn and enhance my skills which could be applied to many different fields. As someone who didn't know what they wanted to do, studying geography at A-Level allowed to keep my options open until I decided what I wanted to do.

**Company you currently work for, Job Title and Location:**

Currently working as Health, Safety, Environmental & Quality (HSEQ) Advisor for H&J Martin Limited which is based in Belfast. H&J Martin are a construction and facilities management company which was founded in 1840.

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**How has Geography helped you in your career? (skills development, e.g. time management, problem-solving, leadership, team work, literacy, numeracy, self-discipline, perseverance, etc)**

Through studying Geography, I was able to gain and enhance various skills which have helped me throughout my time at Queens and in my career. Skills such as communication (verbal & written), planning and problem solving as well as time management and statistical analysis. I was able to build on the skills over the last ten

years which I gain in Loreto which provided me a great foundation as I progressed in my career.

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**Has your study of Geography opened up new opportunities for you? (travel, working abroad, volunteering, leadership, etc)**

I was able to complete a week field trip in Mallorca as part of my undergraduate degree. Working with various construction firms in Northern Ireland, I have had the opportunity to travel to Mainland UK to visit variety of construction sites to assess their environmental and H&S impact.

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**Why would you recommend A Level Geography to a young person today?**

Geography has such a diverse range of topics from human to physical geography, and it gives everyone who studies it the understanding of how the world works and how we as human can have an impact on it. With the on-going issues of man-made climate change, by studying geography at A-level, students are able to gain a better understanding of the impact and gives students an appreciation for the Earth and provide insight for wise management decisions about how the planet's resources should be used. It also allows students to gain transferable skills that they can bring to any future degree and job.

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