



Geography Past Pupil Career Profile Loreto Grammar School

Name: Emma Denton

Dates you studied at Loreto Grammar School:
2011-2018

A' Level Subjects Studied:
Art and Design (AS), Biology, Chemistry, Geography.

Third Level Course/ Training Programme/ Qualification (with location) undertaken after leaving Loreto:
Geography BSc at Queen's University, Belfast.

What attracted you to this course?

Geography offered a variety of module choices which allowed me to study what I enjoyed the most. This has also permitted me to begin to sculpt my career path for the future. Even though I have not yet graduated, the modules which I have picked, will influence my dissertation topic and potentially my future job opportunities. Additionally, Geography is interdisciplinary, which means that it opens many doors into a plethora of career sectors. Therefore, I'll never be restricted to one vocation framework because of my degree choice.

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)

Geography has allowed me to enhance my essay and report writing skills; both of which are regular methods of assessment in my course. This skill will be very useful in any future career opportunities and allows for an enhanced performance in job applications and interviews.

Time management is essential for the study of Geography. There are frequent fieldwork excursions in which punctuality is necessary for obtaining accurate and reliable data.

Geography also requires you to consider abstract topics of epistemology which allows you to develop skills in interpretation, analysis and ways of viewing the world.



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

Geography has opened many doors for me. The most recent of which has been my expedition to the Arctic with 'Students on Ice'. Students on Ice is a Canadian foundation which carries out research and educates students about the Polar Regions. In July and August 2019, I travelled to Greenland and Northern Canada, and in only 14 days, we went 4,074km into and around the Arctic Circle. We landed in Kangerlussuaq and boarded our ship, the 'Ocean Endeavour,' from where we visited Itelleq fjord, the Illulisat ice fjord and the community of Uummannaq, the place of the 'heart mountain.' It took us about a day to journey across the Davis Strait, before arriving in Nunavut, northern Canada, where we visited Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet), Sirmilik National Park, Kinngaarjuk (Coutt's Inlet), Ikpiarjuk (Arctic Bay), Taissumani (Cape Graham Moore), Talluruti (Croker Bay), and finally, Qausuittuq (Resolute Bay). Students from 18 different countries attended the expedition, including students from every circumpolar country. In total, there were 130 students, 50% of whom were from indigenous backgrounds. My journey to the Arctic allowed me to observe climate change first-hand and has encouraged me further to pursue a course of action in my future career.

Recently, I have also been asked to deliver a presentation to the Royal Geographic Society's N.I. branch, where I will discuss my experience in the Arctic.

What were your reasons for studying A Level Geography?

Geography has always been a subject which I have enjoyed, and I could always see myself working within a field of geography. This subject has been described as both a spatial science and a social science. Being able to have that kind of variety opens many doors and ensures that you will always be learning something new, whether it is human migration patterns or earth's laws of dynamics.

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

As an interdisciplinary subject, you can never go wrong with Geography. As an A level subject, it is diverse and thought-provoking, and as a degree, it is very employable and helps you to grow as a person.

If you are interested in making a tangible and positive difference to the world, then you should consider studying geography. Geography will equip you with the necessary skills to evoke change and improve lives. You won't regret it.

In the words of Greta Thunberg, "Instead of looking for hope, look for action. Once we start to act, hope is everywhere."
