INTERNATIONAL PROFILE

Catalina Silva Plata

Course: MSc in Environmental Entrepreneurship

Dept: Civil Engineering

Home Country: Colombia

Why did you choose to study at Strathclyde?
People are always surprised that I came this far from my home country (Colombia). Every time someone asks me why I chose Scotland for a place to study, I give the same answer: I was looking for a programme that combined both business and the environment and the University of Strathclyde is where I found it!

What did you like about the course?
It is a very versatile programme that allows you to choose a range of different subjects according to your interests. It adapts to any background, my undergraduate degree was in Industrial Engineering and I had the opportunity to combine this knowledge with the MSc.

Which modules did you particularly enjoy?
Whether you are a business person, an environmentalist or something in between; you will always find modules that will inspire you and give you useful tools for your life. For me, one of the best modules was the client-based project which made me to use my entrepreneurial skills in order to go to an existing company and work with them for achieving changes that will benefit both the business and the environment.

What are you doing now?
Thanks to my experience in Strathclyde and the knowledge gained in the courses, I had the opportunity to carry out my dissertation with a local dairy company (Wiseman’s dairies) in the “water footprint” and “water use” topics. This was a constructive experience that allowed me to work directly with the farmers and identify the existing issues regarding water use in the agricultural sector. After this study I decided to continue researching water use and sustainability and was successful in gaining a PhD scholarship to start a doctorate study in October 2010 (also in the David Livingstone Centre for Sustainability).

Any other comments?
People are the biggest asset that Scotland, the University of Strathclyde and the David Livingstone Centre for Sustainability have. All of these places are full of friendly people always willing to help you in all matters. Coming here is an experience you will not regret!

“After my MSc dissertation I decided to continue researching water use and sustainability and started a PhD in October 2010 at the University of Strathclyde”