



## **David Doherty**

### **MRes in Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control**



I started a BSc(hons) undergraduate degree in the University of Strathclyde in 2003, and the Civil Engineering Department has an excellent level of expertise in issues relating to environmental protection. I obtained my degree in Environmental Protection & Pollution Control (EPPC) in 2007, and I decided to stay on and complete an MRes post-graduate degree as I found working on my research project was more valuable than doing more classes involving taught lectures.

In my time at Strathclyde, I was given assistance by the University Careers service to boost my CV credentials and in 2006 I went on a work placement in Poland with the IAESTE (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience). During this placement, I lived and worked in a non-English speaking country and got experience in environmental management within a Polish industrial park. In 2007, I did another IAESTE placement in Canada, where I assisted in research relating to monitoring greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and emissions from a composting system in the city of Edmonton, Alberta.

I was lucky to be given a CTA scholarship to fund my 1-year MRes in Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control (IPPC) which mainly involved a research project, and also some interesting lectures within the David Livingstone Centre for Sustainability.

I have just completed the MRes IPPC programme, and I am proud to have produced a good piece of research relating to the environmental contamination of port and harbour sediments with tributyltin (TBT). One of the more interesting experiences I had whilst studying at the University of Strathclyde was being given a sample of heavily polluted sediment, and instructed to find a way to properly detect the pollution within the sediment, and also think of ways to clean up the material. The MRes IPPC trained me in how to deal with a real-life research issue, and gave me skills in a particular area of research which will be valuable if I decide to go onto further research in academia, or pursue a career in industry.

I graduated from the MRes IPPC degree in November 2008, and in January 2009 I plan to do voluntary work in the rainforest of Costa Rica, assisting with a biological reserve in research and also giving guided tours of the protected areas of the rainforest. Thanks to my time in Strathclyde as an undergraduate and the MRes IPPC, I have an extensive knowledge of the value of ecosystems, and my research experience will mean I will be valuable as a volunteer and also as a graduate in the job market.

*“... an extensive knowledge of the value of ecosystems”*