



## **Moira Malcolm**

**MSc Environmental Health with distinction (2006 – 2008)**

**Awards: Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland award for best overall student**

I am from Edinburgh, Scotland and have previous degrees in Zoology from the University of Glasgow and an MSc in Food Science from Robert Gordon's University in Aberdeen. I have worked in a variety of places including the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh doing various projects including research on oiled birds from oil spills and curating the mammal skeleton collection (which involved amongst other things boiling a polar bear). I also spent time as a production and quality manager in a hand-made luxury chocolate factory. For the last 5 years I have worked as a food safety officer in local government.

The Environmental Health degree encompasses a broad range of science subjects and as such is very interesting - from asbestos to zoonoses and everything in between! The principles learnt in previous science degrees are applied to practical situations: chemistry for pollution; biology for food; physics for noise. Being in a class with students from different backgrounds is helpful as each brings their own experience and can add a different point of view to discussions, which in turn helps everybody! Even if your first degree seems somewhat removed from the taught subjects, an interest in the world around you is more important to gaining the most from the course.

Strathclyde University is a good place to be - I commuted from Edinburgh so being in the heart of Glasgow was definitely a bonus for me. The teaching staff are friendly and easy to approach with any problems.

The degree was essential for the work I am now in - I am now training to be an Environmental Health Officer at my previous employer which specifically requires either the undergraduate or postgraduate qualification for entry. I am really enjoying using what I have learned at Strathclyde and applying it to the 'real world' of environmental health. Many of the things I learned during my course are more up to date than my colleagues know about so despite being the 'new girl' I occasionally get to teach them a thing or two!



**Moira receives her prize from the then President of REHIS, Robert Howe**

***“... being in the heart of Glasgow was definitely a bonus ...”***