After working for 10 years with PricewaterhouseCoopers in the accountancy profession, I decided to embark on an MSc in sustainability. When assessing the plethora of sustainability/environmental MSc programmes I had three core criteria: i) multi and interdisciplinary approach; ii) a balance of academic and industrial expertise, and iii) an established and dedicated department that was not merely the re-branding of less trendy disciplines. The David Livingstone Centre for Sustainability (DLCS) satisfied all these requirements throughout the course.

I found the module Principles of Sustainability was extremely challenging, but that’s exactly what I wanted; I wanted to immerse myself in the core issues of Sustainability. I wanted my head to ache! The Environmental Law module was also demanding, but it has given me a strong foundation. A number of other modules which provided useful practical application in the more theoretical aspects of the programme were Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Business Environmental Strategy. These modules have been very useful with my work in helping businesses with their Environmental Management.

Another strong aspect of the DLCS is that you have immense freedom to explore your own research interests which may be outside the department’s comfort zone. I also wished for my research to have a practical application. Since graduating, I kept exploring possible commercial opportunities for the research; it has now consolidated into a new web based tool for Sustainable Business Travel. In fact, the outcome of my MSc has been the central reason for establishing my own business: Sustainable Opportunity Solutions. At Strathclyde University, The Research and Innovation Group (RIG) provided helpful advice so I could begin to commercialise my research idea. Furthermore, RIG continues to provide opportunities for me to engage with the Strathclyde Entrepreneur Network.

Like most things in life, what you get out of it strongly correlates with your effort; but DLCS provides an enabling environment to support your aspirations. For me the aspirations I had in 2005 are materialising with new business opportunities.

I would suggest to anyone whatever stage in their career to discuss their post graduate aspirations with the team at DLCS. They will surely help you make the best decision.

“…the outcome of my MSc has been the central reason for my establishing my own business: Sustainable Opportunity Solutions”