



GEOGRAPHERS IN THE WORKPLACE

Christina Stringer and Melanie Milicich, Department of Geography, The University of Auckland

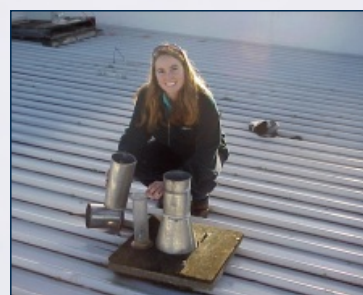
TRUNG (MSc) Property Planner/Analyst, Ministry of Education



"I think it is important to choose a study path in which you have a strong interest, and which will allow you to learn a range of skills and knowledge that will enable you to apply for a variety of jobs. I believe that Geography is one of the subjects that offers this. Human Geography is understanding how the world works through linkages, processes, spatial analysis and strategic overviews.

My job includes monitoring, assessing and analysing school age population changes, school roll fluctuations and other changes impacting on the structure of education provision. I assist in the development of strategies to address and accommodate these changes, including the purchase and provision of property for future schools."

CLAIRE (MSc) Hydrology Monitoring Officer, Northland Regional Council



"I got a job with the Northland Regional Council, almost before my thesis was finished, as a Hydrology Monitoring Officer.

As a hydrologist I spend about 50 percent of my time out in the field collecting flow, rainfall and groundwater data from our monitoring sites, in order to process the information to ISO 9002 Quality System standards."

MARIA (MA), Iwi Consultant, James Barnes and Associates



"I find that my career is constantly stretching my boundaries and challenging my comfort zone. Geography has taught me how to be versatile, methodical and accept these challenges. I approach Maori on behalf of a client of the company, who say, wish to drill in a certain location. It's up to me to disseminate the information to the Iwi, arrange a possible hui, and work through various issues.

This may involve researching land titles, Waitangi Tribunal records, tribal histories, and locations of waahi tapu and archaeological sites.

'Whaia te iti kahurangi...' Strive for the things in life that are important to you."

ALEX (MA) Management Trainee Programme, Air New Zealand



"The Air New Zealand Graduate Management Programme is a two year programme designed to give participants extensive business experience by exposing them to the key 'value creation' areas of the company. Currently I am responsible, with a team of people in different business units, for stimulating sales to Sydney over the Olympic period.

I often meet with advertising agencies, TVNZ, and other Olympic partners. I also spend a considerable proportion of time monitoring competitor activity and implementing new initiatives arising from recent meetings (as well as having lunch with the athletes!).

In my current role, I use many of the skills that I learnt in geography - more often than people realise. Most importantly, the ability to clearly articulate complex ideas is invaluable in the business world. Air New Zealand certainly appreciates geographical skills - of the nine people recruited on this graduate programme, three are geographers!"

CALUM (MSc), Coastal Monitoring Officer, Northland Regional Council

"Some people say I have a dream job; certainly I feel very fortunate to have found a job which allows me to draw on all my expertise, especially my background in coastal processes (geomorphology), while at the same time enjoying the environment."



PETER (MSc), GIS Consultant

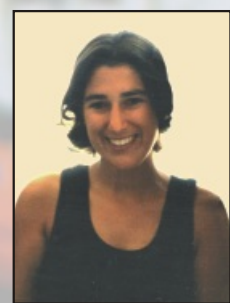


"At the end of the day, some disciplines look in on themselves and some (like Geography) look out at the world.

The first teach you to think like they do, the second teach you to think seriously."

LIZ (BA / LLB), Solicitor, Rudd Watts & Stone

"Geography offers an excellent conceptual framework within which to apply legal concepts, providing a useful background of economic, social and environmental issues that inevitably crop up in law. Additionally Geography provides a strong foundation for working in environmental law."



BLAIR (PGDipSci) Research Analyst, Progressive Enterprises



"I have found the skills learnt in geography to be very useful in the workplace. In addition to the content base of geography, the discipline has equipped me with skills in a number of areas including the use of GIS, statistical analysis and research methods.

My role includes:
- using a GIS trade area analysis model to investigate potential sites for new supermarkets. This involves looking at various factors such as sales level, competitor store location and projected population growth.
- monitoring of competitor store activities across New Zealand such as openings, closures and refurbishment."

All Black Airline Pilot Advertising Director Administrative Secretary Business Advisor Caucus Secretary Cartographer Climatologist Coastal Scientist Coastal Consents Officer Coastal and Fluvial Scientist Community Development Worker Communications Coordinator Diplomat Demographer Environmental Lawyer Environmental Research Officer Environmental Policy Analyst Editor Education Review Officer Environmental Monitoring Officer Environmental Assets Engineer Futures Analyst Fluvial Geomorphologist Forestry Planner Forest Information Technician Field Officer GIS Development Officer GIS Consultant GIS and Remote Sensing Analyst Glaciologist Hydrologist Head of Government Business Unit Human Resource Officer Iwi Consultant Information Consultant Irrigation Management Consultant Journalist Karst Resource Officer Laboratory and Field Technician Lecturer Librarian Licensing Officer

GEOGRAPHY GRADUATES HAVE INTERESTING JOBS

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Landcare Adviser Lawyer Management Services Provider Market Researcher Manual Writer Natural Hazards Scientist National Weather Presenter Oceanographer Planner Policy Analyst Property Developer Political Counsellor Professor Project Manager Principal and General Manager Quaternary Scientist Resource Management Officer Race Relations Conciliator Research Manager for Property Company Resource Consent Investigating Officer Resource Management Lawyer Ranger Senior Policy Analyst Staff Planner Sales Manager Systems Administrator Statistical Officer Secondary School Teacher School Systems Director Strategic Analyst Transport Planner Tourism Consultant Trade and Economic Analyst Teacher Union Organiser Valuer and Property Developer Vice Chancellor Water Resources Officer Weather and Climate Consultant Examiner Youth Programme Coordinator Zoo Education Officer