

## **University of Exeter Student Ambassador Case Study**

### **Personal Profile**

**Name –** Ryck Williamson

**School attended –** Pershore 6<sup>th</sup> Form,  
Worcestershire

**Subjects studied –** A level Maths, Physics and  
Geography

**University attended –** University of Exeter

**University campus –** Penryn, Cornwall

**Degree subject –** Geography with Environmental  
Management



**Number of years as a Student Ambassador -** 2

**Year of graduation –** 2012

**Current job/employer –** Business Management Graduate with Thales UK

**About me –**

My decision to study Geography with Environmental Management comes from its unique position in sitting at the interface of Human and Physical Geography which to me is the most interesting area of Geography as it's a real confluence of ideas, attitudes and positions

I was attracted to the University of Exeter due to the quality of the new Penryn Campus and its nature as a small engaging campus in a rural setting. The aspirations of the University and its improving record and status was something that also attracted me and the way in which the worth of my degree has accumulated even during my time at the University has been very pleasing to see.

I also feel that the University of Exeter also places a real emphasis on developing its students as people. Focusing on the creation of more rounded and resilient Graduates than some institutions, who I feel focus more on University being a means to an end career wise and not about you as a person developing and growing.

**Had you always planned to go to university?**

Yes from the period when I was choosing my GCSE choices university was always something that I planned to do with increasing certainty of the decisions around it coming over time. The course/location/experience that I wanted from my University degree came in time as I progressed through lower school and 6<sup>th</sup> form, sometimes being a gradual change and at other times a more sudden shift in what subject choice I felt was best for me.

**What would you say to students who are currently not sure if university is for them?**

I would say to look at University not just in the view of the tangible economic value in terms of employment prospects but also for the intangible experience that it gives you in terms of life skills, enjoyment and becoming a more rounded and broad individual than when you joined. I would also advise that students who are undecided engage as much as possible with the opportunities presented to them in gaining exposure to universities; UCAS fairs, residential, talks, outreach work by ambassadors will all enable you to gain the best insight into the University environment and ask the specific questions that you feel need answering so you can make an informed decision as you can.

**What made you apply to become a University of Exeter Student Ambassador?**

During my schooling and 6<sup>th</sup> form I have been fortunate to benefit from visits and exposure to those above me through the kinds of works that the ESAS delivers. For me therefore being a Student Ambassador was in part about giving something positive to those following me in the same way that I have benefited from what those above me have given back. I had also prior to joining the ESAS scheme done tutoring and educational workshops during my time in 6<sup>th</sup> form and knew that this was something that I both enjoyed and benefited from, enhancing and developing my existing and new skills as well as gaining insights into other subjects and learning opportunities that I wouldn't otherwise come across. As thus joining ESAS to me was a natural extension of previous undertakings and the prospect of greater activities such as UCAS/Careers fairs and Open days was a big attraction as something new to keep developing on and exposing myself to new environments. I also cannot deny that the prospect of being paid and the often free food that accompanies being a Student Ambassador for the University of Exeter is certainly welcome.

**Do you think that being a University of Exeter Student Ambassador contributed to your own personal development and if so how?**

I also think that being a University of Exeter Student Ambassador helped me to reflect on my own experiences more through re-living and articulating them for the benefit of students currently treading the same paths I have done. This allowed in a way to gain a more detached reflection of myself and my performances and so identify things that I had both done well and also things that I had maybe missed before. The exposure to different environments through the ESAS scheme also presented a unique development opportunity to engage in new environments i.e. presenting to a group of prospective students parents on the employability of a Geography graduate and trying to dispel the conception that we are all either Weathermen or Teachers represents a different challenge to those faced during normal academic life. The way that ESAS activities involve you becoming part of the University's public face brings you interaction with a huge

variety of different people and organisations providing a welcome contrast in its outward nature compared to the sometimes insular bubble like nature of a University campus.

**What was your highlight of being a Student Ambassador?**

My highlight of being a Student Ambassador was being fortunate enough to work the Exeter Summer Residential during both of my years in summer 2011 and 2012. I found these to be incredibly rewarding and fun to work on. It was great to see the development of the students throughout the week and the positive impact that the residential was having on broadening their outlook about University and high education, their backgrounds and stories also broadened my horizons.

**Would you recommend becoming a Student Ambassador to anyone thinking about applying and why?**

I would recommend any student within the University of Exeter who has a passion for sharing knowledge and developing themselves and others to join the University of Exeter Student Ambassador Scheme. I feel it is a really good, strong scheme to be involved in on many levels; the work you do, the benefits to yourself, its impact on others, it really has been a highlight to me of my time at the University of Exeter.

To find out more about the University of Exeter Student Ambassador scheme visit [www.exeter.ac.uk/ambassadors/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/ambassadors/)

To find out more about the work of the University of Exeter Student Recruitment Office visit [www.exeter.ac.uk/teachers](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/teachers)