



# Kate Mellor

**Degree: History and French**  
**Year: 2**

## Why sustainability?

My interest in environmental issues was sparked at a young age, through many visits to National Trust properties where my mother worked, but mainly through living in the countryside which helped me learn to appreciate wildlife and the outdoors. My interest grew whilst I studied Environmental Science at AS Level outside of my school timetable. Subsequent travels in South East Asia and Australasia opened my eyes to the environmental plights of the developing world, and the need for developed countries to aid them and help battle climate change.



## What experience have you gained at Univer

This year I was the Environment and Ethics Officer for the Students' Guild which has deeply increased my understanding of Sustainability issues at a University. Through this role I have been involved with various groups, such as the Exeter City Fairtrade Steering Group, and the different green societies at the University. I chaired my own committee which brought together green societies, such as Green Soc and Be the Change, students interested in environmental issues, and members of staff from the Guild and the University alike. Through this Environment and Ethics Committee I helped to organise activities for Fairtrade Fortnight and Go Green Week, amongst other events. To add to this, I undertook a work placement with the Sustainability team for 2 weeks. This helped me gain a wider understanding of the University's approach to Sustainability. I helped conduct research into facts and figures to do with the environment – the most interesting one being that 16,000 litres of water are used to produce 1kg of beef! The figures concerning our water footprint is astounding. I also worked on the Student Guilds' environmental legislation and wrote a report on which type of paper the University should be using.

### What skills have you gained?

My role as E & E Officer helped me gain vital skills for my future employability, such as organisation, communication and time management. The most useful skill I have gained would definitely be the ability to arrange and chair my own meetings – finding the right date, room and time that a large group of people can all make is a definite challenge! My work placement also helped me work on my research and IT skills. I have gained so much experience this year and am very thankful to those that helped me along the way!



### What are you going to do next?

Next year I am going on my year abroad to France, to study at a University there. Hopefully I can get involved with green societies there, and if there aren't any established already then I will have to create one! After University I am hoping to get a Graduate job in Sustainability which will give me a good footing in the field and we shall see what happens from there!

### What is the one thing that everyone can do to make a difference?

Everyone can recycle at home. The one thing that really annoys me is that people are just too lazy to recycle properly! It only takes two seconds to put your waste in the correct bins so please just think before you bin it!

To keep up to date with opportunities in Sustainability, email [sustainability@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@exeter.ac.uk) to sign up to our opportunities mailing list.

