

Environment Agency
QUEST Undergraduate Sponsorship

<http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency>

Please consider the environment and only print this document if you really need to.

Contents

- 3. Welcome
- 4. Our organisation
- 5. Environment Agency & QUEST Scholarship
- 6. Beyond QUEST
- 7. Benefits
- 8. Feedback from graduate trainees
- 9. Further information

Hello!

The Environment Agency protects people and the environment, helps wildlife to thrive and promotes sustainable development. If you were to join us, you would be part of a team working to reduce flood and coastal risk to millions of people across England.

We have over 400 engineers working in the Environment Agency as graduates through to Directors, working in a client led organisation with major consultants and contract suppliers the opportunities for learning and gaining valuable experience are extensive. This means you can be sure to benefit from comprehensive training and personal development programmes to help you be the best you can be, have a great career and make a real difference to people's lives. In addition to the planning, project management, design and construction of flood and coastal risk management schemes, we also respond to flooding and a range of other environmental incidents. We have a highly professional emergency response working around the clock alongside the emergency services, local authorities and the military. If you were to join us, you would have the opportunity to do that too.

[Engineers and the Environment-natural allies](#)

[Being an engineer](#)

[In conversation with the next generation](#)

[5 things I didn't know about flooding](#)

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

It's an exciting time to join the Environment Agency, government recently published its 25 Year Environment Plan and has set out an audacious and inspiring vision: that we will be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it. We helped shape the Plan, and it is now one of our main tasks to deliver it.

We recently published our new Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. This strategy sets out our ambitions for increasing the resilience of our communities in the face of increasing impacts of the changing climate and a growing population.

How we do things in the Environment Agency is as important as what we do. We seek to be an open, outward looking, positive organisation. We believe none of us is as good as all of us: "embrace difference, include everyone" is part of our DNA. Just as we seek to enhance the lives of the people and communities, we want working for the Environment Agency itself to be life-enhancing.

If you'd like to be part of a dynamic organisation and make a real difference, through the Quest scholarship, please read on, look at our website and the blogs below, and I hope to meet you in September.



Ian Hodge
BEng (Hons) CEng FICE
Director, Asset Management & Engineering / Chief Engineer



Our Organisation

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment. Acting to reduce the impacts of a changing climate on people and wildlife is at the heart of everything we do.



We reduce the risks to people, properties and businesses from flooding and coastal erosion.



We protect and improve the quality of water, making sure there is enough for people, businesses, agriculture and the environment. Our work helps to ensure people can enjoy the water environment through angling and navigation.



We look after land quality, promote sustainable land management, and help protect and enhance wildlife habitats. And we work closely with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations.



We can't do this alone. We work with government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and communities to make our environment a better place for people and wildlife. Of course, none of this will be possible without the professionalism and dedication of our staff. We're committed to support our people to find new ways of working and to maintain our focus on creating a better place for people and wildlife.

For further information on the Environment Agency and what we do please visit: www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Environment Agency & QUEST Scholarship

What is the QUEST Undergraduate scholarship?

A scholarship of up to £10,000 over the course of your studies, including paid summer work placements, and a potential full-time job with a leading organisation such as the Environment agency when you graduate.

Who is it for?

To be eligible for this QUEST scholarship you must be due to start the first year of a full-time civil engineering degree course at a UK university that is accredited by ICE and be predicted at least ABB in your A-levels, or equivalent.

Environment Agency QUEST Scholarship

Our QUEST scholarship scheme is designed to give you opportunities to gain valuable industry, practical and varied experience.

How we support you:

- Environment Agency orientation day
- Minimum of 8 weeks paid work experience each summer
- Rotation around a variety of teams during your summer placements
- Buddy support scheme
- Individual mentor

Experience Opportunities

- Project Management
- Flood Risk assessments and modelling
- Asset Management
- Strategy, policy and research
- Ecology
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Incident Management
- Detail Design
- Contract Management

Diversity

Our Head Office is in Bristol and we have offices across England.

At the Environment Agency we are committed to diversity and inclusion. We want *all* our staff, whoever or wherever they are, to feel valued and respected and to see this as a great place to work.

“Diversity: it’s in our nature”

Contact

For any questions about the QUEST undergraduate scholarship scheme please contact the Institution of Civil Engineers:

quest.awards@ice.org.uk

Beyond QUEST

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

The Environment Agency offers a graduate training scheme (GTS) which provides structured training for graduate engineers with MEng degrees in Civil, Electrical or Mechanical Engineering to become Incorporated (IEng) or Chartered Engineers (CEng).

This training scheme offers our graduate engineers the chance to develop their engineering and flood risk management capabilities through a well-supported training programme to a level that meets the professional standards of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Benefits

Join us in this role after you graduate and you will enjoy the following benefits:

Starting salary: From £26,599 (subject to annual updates)

Location: Across England.

Hours of work: 37 hours permanent contract.

Leave entitlement: Your leave allowance in this role will be 25 days plus bank holidays, increasing to 30 days per year relating to length of service. We can offer additional leave for examinations, approved studies, public duties, special/reserve forces.

We also offer up to two days paid environmental outcome days each year. These give you the opportunity to take part in community activities with a clear environmental outcome for people and wildlife.

Pension: We will enrol you into the Environment Agency Pension Fund (EAPF) on commencing employment, if your employment contract is for 3 months or more. The EAPF is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). It is a career average scheme, which means you will build up benefits based on your pay each scheme year rather than your final salary.

We will base your pension contributions on your actual pay and you will receive tax and national insurance relief on your contributions. The pension contribution rates currently range between 5.5% to 12.5%. Whilst you are in the scheme we will also pay an employer contribution into your pension pot. We currently pay 17.5%, so this is a very generous scheme.

Work/life balance: We support flexible working hours and practices to help you strike a good balance between your work life and your personal life. We will also encourage you to keep developing your skills and professional knowledge throughout your career.

We run a subsidised Sports and Social Club network, which is open to everyone, including friends and family. Other health and wellbeing benefits include: counselling and advisory service, eye care service and access to Workplace Wellness (our employee assistance service); interest free loans for season tickets and/or bicycles and safety equipment; childcare vouchers scheme; shopping, leisure, fitness, finance and travel benefits and discount.

Feedback from graduate trainees

Experience within lots of teams and encouragement to train and learn new things. Flexibility and positive working environment. The understanding that graduates are here to learn and grow as well as do their jobs. Working with floods - we're actually making a huge difference to lives! I think the Environment Agency is a great place to work all round really.

The key benefit of the Environment Agency graduate scheme is that there is freedom to keep pursuing new development opportunities to fully achieve all the ICE attributes. Supervisors/teams leaders are always supportive and encourage you to attend any training courses or useful events.

We have a good work/life balance and time allocated to allow us to pursue development goals.

At the Environment Agency, I was treated like an Engineer as soon as I joined the graduate programme. I was told that my aim shouldn't be to prove that I could be an engineer, but to demonstrate that I already was.

The support I received during my training was incredible. I was given regular opportunities and encouragement by my mentors and managers, as well as constant support from engineers in the organisation, and other graduates on the training scheme.

My mentors and managers at the Environment Agency recognised the importance of giving me work that would develop my skills. I was given a great set of projects that allowed me to grow as an engineer, and which gave me the opportunities to demonstrate the ICE attributes at professional review.



Further information

If you have any questions about the QUEST Undergraduate scholarship or our Graduate Training scheme, please email:

gradengineers@environment-agency.gov.uk

To find out more about what it's like to work at the Environment Agency, please visit:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/recruitment

or

<https://environmentagencycareers.co.uk/>

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

