

Tania

Civil Servant for DEFRA:
UN Strategy Branch



How I got here

I took geography plus two other subjects at A Level and then studied geography at UCL where I became interested in political and environmental geography. After graduating I worked as a Personal Assistant for a director of a national charity, before applying to DEFRA.

What my job entails

I am involved in all aspects of the government's international work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Sustainable Development Programme. I help organise meetings, write speeches and prepare briefings; working closely with ministers of the government. The UN Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) is based in New York and the UNEP is in Nairobi, so I have recently been abroad at high level policy meetings as part of my job. I have also worked on European Union sustainable development strategy in Brussels

How I use my geographical skills

Geography has given me a great background when working with other nations - knowing something about global trade and global issues is an advantage when negotiating policy with the EU or UN. I feel that I have really *used* my geography degree to help with my work, and am now also studying part time for a masters degree at the geography department at Kings College, London. The course is called 'Environment, Politics and Globalisation', which is perfect for the job I am doing now.

What I love about geography

I love the diversity of Geography. To illustrate this - my three best friends are from university. We all studied geography together. We are each following very different career paths but all using our geography – one in social exclusion work, one in refugee and asylum work and one in education. Different dreams, different paths, same core subject.

