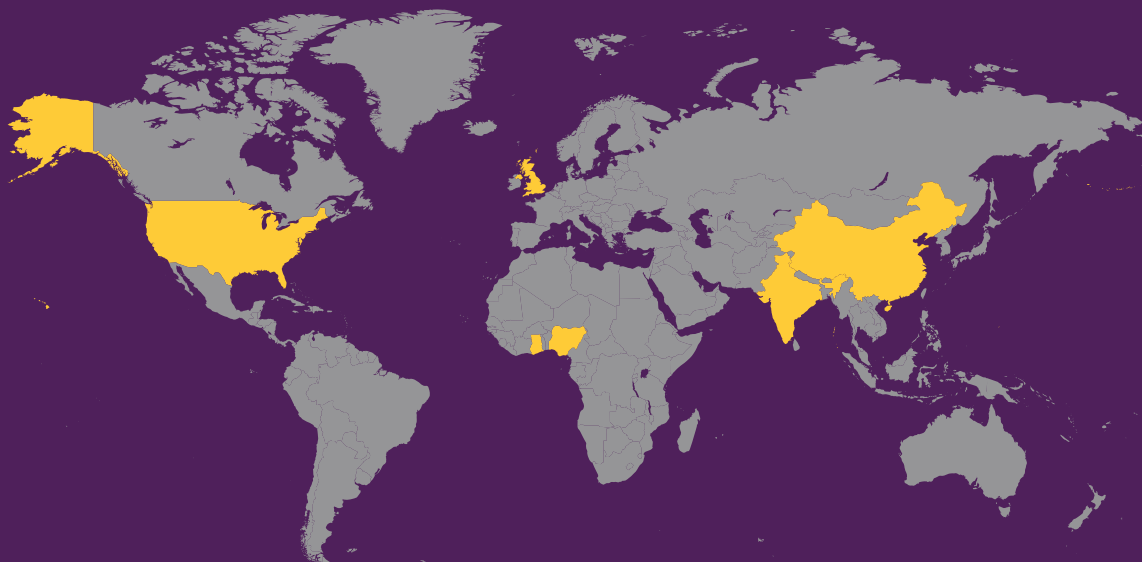


TOP GRADUATE DESTINATIONS

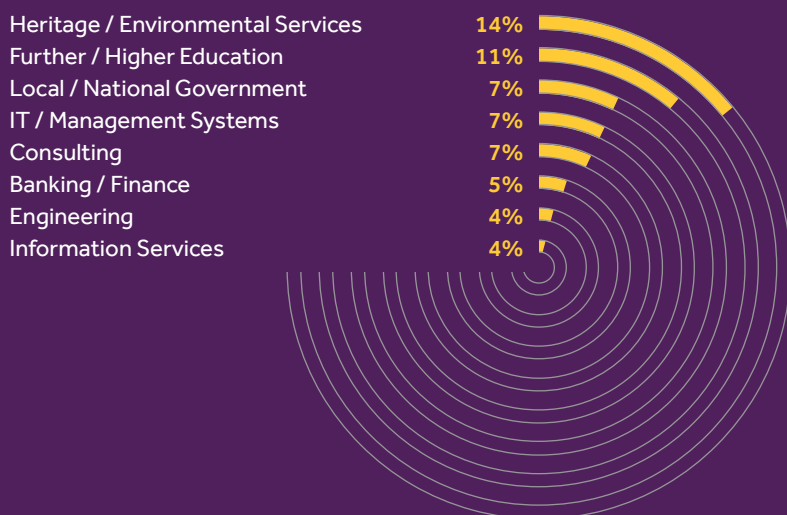
UK
China
Nigeria
India
Ghana
USA



MOST TARGETED UNIVERSITY BY THE UK'S TOP EMPLOYERS

(HIGH FLYERS 2022)

JOB SECTORS



EMPLOYERS

Jacobs
Archidoron Marine Construction
British Airways
Nature Rwanda
BSG Ecology
Southern California Association of Governments
RBS
The University of Manchester

JOB TITLES

GIS Analyst
Data Analyst
Geospatial Analyst
Business Analyst
IT Engineer
PhD Researcher

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY DISCIPLINES





GRADUATE PROFILE

NAME: Ethan Hayes

COURSE: MSc Geographical Information Science

YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2016

ROLE: Transport Strategy Officer

EMPLOYER: Transport for Greater Manchester

INTERVIEW

Hi Ethan – tell us a little bit about why you decided to study this course at Manchester?

The course offered a good range of topics, from theoretically based cartography lectures through to practical 'lab' GIS sessions. Most importantly, it included an opportunity to conduct a short work placement, along with opportunities to develop new skills such as web-GIS and coding.

And what have you been up to since leaving the course?

Upon leaving university, I was fortunate to have a job offer with a large global consultancy firm as a GIS technician. Given my interest and knowledge of transport topics, I rapidly developed my career and became a transport consultant. I joined Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) as a Transport Strategy Officer mid-way through 2019, working within a sub-team focusing upon strategic planning, policy and research. My current role ranges from working on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, which is Greater Manchester's plan for homes, jobs, and the environment, through to more data analytical, modelling and GIS-based research work aiming to inform future policy.

How did the course help shape your career path?

I had no idea what I wanted to do, career-wise! The MSc without a doubt shaped my career path.

My placement during my MSc with TfGM proved pivotal. It gave me a first-hand opportunity to see how diverse the sector is, and how many different backgrounds and skillsets are required within large transport organisations and projects. The non-GIS skills have proven just as valuable. Skills such as methodology development, database management, report writing – these topics have all come up time and time again in my career. Developing an understanding at university meant I could hit the ground running.

My MSc also transformed my personal skills, confidence, and my ability to apply previous lessons learnt to completely new contexts. The contacts I made during my MSc placement have been the most important factor in shaping my career.

And lastly, what advice would you give to someone who's thinking of following in your footsteps?

Try new things. Don't be afraid to apply the skills and techniques learnt within lectures and practical sessions to topics

entirely out of your comfort zone.

Learning to approach analytical problems with a logical methodology has proven the most practically valuable skill I took away from my MSc.

Work placements, however short, are great for developing personal confidence skills, understanding what you do and do not have an interest in – not to mention an opportunity to develop contacts within the industry.

Decide whether you want to specialise in GIS itself, or whether you want to specialise in something else, for example, transport, and use GIS as a tool within a wider set of skills. I think this is increasingly important in the GIS job market, especially with a GIS market shifting towards tools designed for unskilled users.



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