

# Graduate Profiles

**Natalie Patton**



## **Background**

Natalie went to school at St. Columba's College in Stranorlar, Co. Donegal. Her favourite leaving cert subjects included Geography and Biology. She enjoys surfing and outdoor pursuits in her spare time and is currently employed by Irish Water/Ervia. While at IT Sligo, Natalie completed her work placement at Donegal County Council Central Laboratory and graduated from IT Sligo in 2017.

## **What have you been up to career wise since graduating from IT Sligo?**

I started working for Donegal County Council immediately for four months on a summer contract. I then had two weeks off before starting my current position at Irish Water.

## **What kind of tasks do you complete on a typical working day?**

Data analysis for comparing environmental monitoring results against the drinking water regulations.

## **What skills are important for your job?**

Being able to use software packages like Excel and GIS to represent and understand data. Communication skills, having a good understanding of water treatment processes.

## **Favourite things about your job?**

The environment and atmosphere. I'm also involved in projects that would otherwise be unavailable to me. Irish water have a fantastic training programme.

## **Why did you choose environmental science @ IT Sligo?**

I have always cared about the environment, especially conservation and biodiversity. When I was looking at the course at IT Sligo as a mature student, environmental science was my first choice.

## **What were the best things about Environmental Science @ IT Sligo?**

I liked the practical labs which were designed around environmental quality analysis. Many of the lab experiences I gained at the IT, I was able to apply in my position at Donegal County Council Environmental Monitoring Department.

## **Advice to 2<sup>nd</sup> Level students in choosing a 3<sup>rd</sup> level course**

Pick a degree that can be widely applied to a broad range of careers options. Like Environmental Science, there are a number of different paths you can take depending on what you prefer.