

Writtle College



A partner of the University of Essex



GRADUATE CAREERS GUIDE



University of Essex

Welcome

Welcome to the Writtle College Graduate Careers Guide.

Our intention in writing this guide is to give you a flavour of some of the many and varied career paths you might take up after graduating with a higher education qualification from Writtle College.

As a small specialist higher education institution we are able to offer a bespoke careers guidance service to each student including individual career guidance interviews and employer events as well as a vacancy service via a virtual jobs notice board and email notification of vacancies. We maintain ongoing contact with employers who return to us with vacancies on a regular basis and this aids our graduates in finding suitable employment. Our aim is to empower students to make independent, informed choices for their future careers.

Our degrees are accredited and awarded by the University of Essex – one of the top ten universities for research and students work with approachable academic staff who are proactive within both research and consultancy. We hope you enjoy reading our careers guide. All of the profiles are from Writtle College graduates and we hope they will inspire you to come and study at Writtle College too.

Angela Kinloch
Head of The Careers Advisory Service
Writtle College



Name: Thomas Wilton

Graduated: BSc (Hons)
Animal Science – 2006

Nationality: British

Occupation: PhD student studying jointly
at the National Institute for Biological
Standards and Control and Imperial College London



My Writtle College

I chose to read Animal Science at Writtle College because I had an interest in biology and also in working with animals. The degree allowed me to pursue both of my interests. In addition the degree encompassed a wide range of modules ranging from ecology to cell biology and thus offered me a wide range of subjects. It is this wide range of subjects that I really enjoyed at Writtle, in particular the more scientific modules such as Cell Biology and Function. In addition I enjoyed the balance of practical and theory based learning. Finally it should be noted that the lecturers and the facilities (e.g. the library) also made completing the degree an enjoyable and exciting experience. In terms of student memories of College, I remember living on campus in halls and the food at the on-site restaurant, both gave me my first taste of what it was like to live away from home. Beyond that I can recall the many social events that were held at the BAA – the on-site bar.

My career path

Since I started studying for my GCSEs, many years prior to Writtle, I had begun working at a local Animal Rescue charity. This charity took in all kinds of animals from dogs and cats to horses and sheep. It started my interest in working with animals and I continued working there until the final year of my degree at Writtle. Beyond that I have completed various work experiences at local veterinary surgeries and also at the Broxbourne Wildlife Park Zoo. During my time at Writtle I completed a module entitled Animal Health and Disease. This module sparked my interest in viruses. Upon completion of my degree I decided to pursue this interest and studied for an MSc in Medical Microbiology (with an emphasis on molecular virology) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Following this I took a year out working in industry before starting a PhD in Virology. While the subject of my degree is not directly related to that of my MSc and PhD it did provide me with the necessary scientific background to undertake these fields.

My current job

My current job is a postgraduate student studying for a doctorate in Virology at the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control and Imperial College London. My work is based on improving the current inactivated poliovirus vaccine for the Endgame phase of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. I particularly enjoy the research aspect of this work. Much of my research is cutting edge and never been done before and thus is quite exciting! I also enjoy the knowledge that my research is contributing to improving the vaccine used to control and eradicate poliovirus.

Future plans

My immediate future plans are to finish writing my thesis and complete my doctorate. Following that I intend to seek out a postdoctoral position in either academia or industry. I intend to continue my research into developing and improving vaccines.





Name: Christine Hills

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Equine Sports Therapy – 2011

Nationality: British

Occupation: Equine Body Worker –
Woof Neigh Therapy Ltd



My career path

Undertaking this course was part of a complete career change for me. I decided to change from being a Sales Manager to train to become an Equine and Canine Body Worker, and this led me onto the Sports Therapy course at Writtle College.

After completing my Equine Body Workers Certificate with Equinenergy – who hold courses at Writtle College – I realised that I needed to know more about horse anatomy, nutrition, behaviour, biomechanics and the rider's influence, as well as complementary therapies, so I enrolled onto the Equine Sports Therapy Course.

I worked part-time in my own business, Woof Neigh Therapy while studying for my BSc and I have found that since graduating, vets are more willing to refer horses and dogs to me for massage and physio.

My current job

I love my current job working with dogs and horses. I address their musculoskeletal issues and assess gait patterns and biomechanics. Afterwards I decide on a treatment plan and carry it out, later assessing the improvement in the horse or dog. I've now been able to combine my all consuming passion for animals with a satisfying career. My life is hardly recognisable to pre-Writtle!

When I consider the downsides, I realise that there really are not many...but I do work seven days a week and haven't taken a holiday this year. Running and building your own business is not necessarily an easy option but I really enjoy the challenge and love working for myself.

Future plans

I am continuing in education while running my own business, Woof Neigh Therapy. I am enrolled as a part-time student in Shropshire, now studying for an MSc in Veterinary Physiotherapy. After two years on this course I will achieve a Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy which qualifies me to call myself a Veterinary Physiotherapist. I intend to continue for another year to complete a dissertation to obtain my MSc.



Name: Amanda Turburville

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Conservation and Environment – 2007

Nationality: British

Occupation: Landscape Officer – Community and Biodiversity, Braintree District Council



My Writtle College

I chose the course at Writtle for its content as it offered a broad range of modules that gave an overall knowledge of conservation practices and legislation. As a mature student I was worried about 'going back to school' but I was well supported and quickly got the hang of academic life again. Although it was hard work I thoroughly enjoyed my three years at Writtle and as well as achieving my dream of working in conservation I have also gained lifelong friends.

My career path

I had no previous work experience just an interest in the natural environment and an enjoyment of being outdoors. This course enabled me to make a complete career change having previously been a 'desk job' Civil Servant.

I gained employment with the Council in 2009 as a temporary Landscape Assistant leading practical volunteer work parties. I was then fortunate to secure promotion and a permanent position as the Community Landscape Officer 10 months later.

My degree course gave me the theoretical knowledge that I am now able to apply in the workplace. I have found that the most useful modules were the practical ones such as ecological surveying techniques, and habitat management evaluation as I regularly survey and assess different habitats and write management plans.

My current job

My current role seeks to improve council owned public open green space for both people and wildlife. This is delivered through my work with community groups, volunteers and schools in leading practical activities, advising on suitable management, seeking funding opportunities and looking for opportunities to increase biodiversity through habitat creation and management.

Name: Marc Outten

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Conservation and Environment – 2007

Nationality: British

Occupation: Site Manager – RSPB South Essex Marshes



My Writtle College

Writtle College has an excellent reputation which I had heard about long before deciding where to study. The location of the College was also a deciding factor because I was able to commute each day. Having an existing job and a young family I was not keen to move away.

I had a very interesting and extremely rewarding student experience as I gained a great deal of knowledge and insight into a subject that I was passionate about. I also met some very like-minded people that were both enthusiastic and supportive during my years at Writtle – this all helped to create an engaging environment in which to study.

I particularly enjoyed the campus and grounds at the College as they are ideal for studying conservation and land management with a variety of habitats and land usages.

My career path

Prior to my degree I completed the NVQ 2 in Environmental Conservation at Writtle. As a mature student this was an excellent introduction to College life whilst acquiring important practical skills. Prior to, and during, my time at Writtle I had an active interest in ornithology and species conservation. I volunteered for a variety of conservation charities doing

practical land and habitat management. Throughout my course, I was a BTO Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) recorder, and also carried a number of other surveys including butterfly monitoring and breeding bird surveys. Volunteering experience along with the knowledge and skills I learnt during my time at Writtle College enabled me to move straight into paid employment in the conservation and habitat management sector.

I secured a reserves warden position with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) two months prior to the completion of my course. Initially The RSPB allowed me to work part time to enable me to complete my studies, I then moved into the full time position, once graduated.

During my role as warden at the RSPB South Essex Marshes I obtained valuable experience in machinery operation, species surveying, habitat management and creation and contract management. Knowledge of many of these tasks was underpinned by the skills and knowledge I had gained at Writtle College.

My current job

My new role as site manager is extremely varied, allowing me to have a great deal of input and influence in the design, management and creation of a landscape scale wetland nature reserve. The South Essex Marshes is one of the largest projects of its kind in the country at over 1,000 hectares. Managing staff and contractors, management plan writing, habitat creation, engaging with key stakeholders and partners are all part of my role of site manager. Working with farmers is key in the management of habitats for wildlife and one of the many interesting aspects of working with the RSPB.

There are no downsides to my job, every day is a challenge, very different and very rewarding.



Name: Fay Dyke

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Landscape & Garden Design – 2011

Nationality: British

Occupation: Landscape Design Consultant at Spring (Cultivated Services for Schools)



My Writtle College

I chose to study the BSc (Hons) Landscape and Garden Design course because it specialised in areas of design which allowed me to broaden my knowledge and skill base. I particularly enjoyed the study of landscape components and their relationship to the wider context.

I have fond memories of my student life at Writtle, great friends, lecturers and study trips.

My career path

Prior to studying at Writtle College, I worked at the RHS Hyde Hall Garden. My role there propelled my love of plants and horticulture. I wanted to fuel this passion into designing cohesive landscape spaces which would work in harmony with natural and artificial elements.

I was in part-time employment throughout my degree and this allowed me to apply my studying through work. Once I completed my degree, it was my first class honours that supported me through to gaining a permanent position as a Landscape Design Consultant specialising in primary schools.

My degree encouraged and developed my interests in landscape design and how these might impact human life, particularly with education and the interaction of young people.

My current job

My job as Landscape Design Consultant at Spring (Cultivated Services for Schools) entails regular meetings with head teachers and school councils.

The position holds high responsibility in relation to the production of plans and transferring these to contractors, the pressure is on to get these correct.

Future plans

I aspire to set up my own business based on my past successes and career ambitions. I will continue to put my degree into practical use.



Name: Matthew Spanton

Graduated: HND Agriculture – 1999

Nationality: British

Occupation: Farm manager for
T G Redsell Ltd



My Writtle College

I choose Writtle because it was offering the right course for me, both practical and theory based with great facilities and good lecturers. It is also based in a great part of the country with links to both cities and the countryside.

I have very fond memories of Writtle. It was a very welcoming College to all students from all walks of life, all studying for different professions. I made friends from all over the world and from the UK, most of who I am still in contact with today.

I enjoyed the great social and sport aspect of the College. At Writtle you could work hard but also enjoy the social events and the more you get involved with team sports and clubs the more opportunities open up.

My career path

I have always been interested in farming and worked on our family farm at every opportunity in the holidays and Writtle seemed the perfect step after finishing school for me.

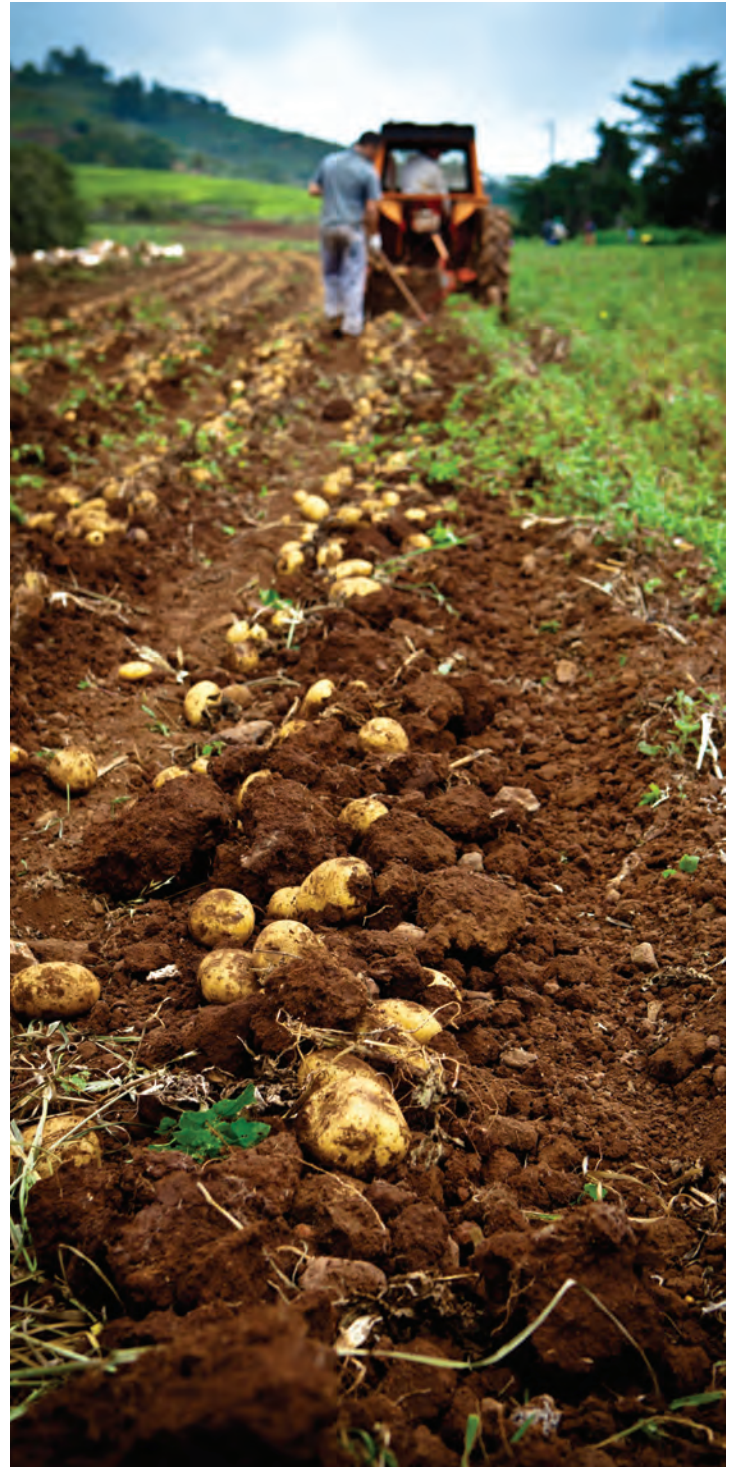
After studying at Writtle I travelled and worked in Southern Africa. I then returned home for a couple of years and worked on the family farm growing 120ha of potatoes. After this I thought it would be good to get some experience somewhere else and since 2003 I have worked for a family business in Kent – T G Redsell Ltd.

My current job

I am now Farm Manager on a 1400ha family run farm in east Kent. The farm has top fruit, cherries, hops, potatoes, onions and cereals and a large cold storage facility.

The most enjoyable part of the job is being outside but that is changing with the amount of paperwork that is involved in farming now. Another enjoyable factor is that every day is different with such a wide variation in jobs.

The only downside of the job is trying to keep up with all the changing rules and regulations especially when dealing with the supermarkets.



Name: Sarah Disney

Graduated: BA (Hons) Professional Floristry – 2011

Nationality: British

Occupation: Manager of a Florist shop, Heaven on Earth in Middlesex



My Writtle College

I chose to study at Writtle College to further my knowledge in Floristry. I want to be able to teach one day and bearing that in mind I thought that this course would be perfect to progress me to that goal.

Some of my favourite memories of studying at Writtle were learning about other subjects that surrounded the flower industry such as postharvest and the international trade and supply Chain. I also created an exhibition for my final floristry exam based on my chosen designer, and helped to make jewellery at the Prima Comfort Fashion Awards, which were all opportunities that I would not have had if I had not chosen to do this course.

As a part-time student I found Writtle College a nice place to escape to, all of the staff are very helpful and a lot of resources are made available during your studies.

My career path

Whilst studying at Writtle College I managed a flower shop in Middlesex, even though I enjoy working in a busy shop I want to hopefully one day pass on the knowledge that I have learned in teaching, hence choosing to study at Writtle.

My goal for the future is to pursue the route of teaching in education and I intend to undertake a teaching qualification.

As a possible alternative route, I may also choose to continue learning about postharvest in the flower industry to become more involved in the commercial side of this Industry.

My current job

In my current job I am responsible for the day-to-day running of the flower shop, by taking and making up orders, ordering flowers from Holland, taking wedding consultations, making up many wedding flowers on a regular basis, conditioning flowers and staff organisation.

I particularly enjoy buying for the company, I love discovering new products and coming up with fresh ideas.



Name: Niek van Veggel

Graduated: MSc Animal Biology and Welfare – 2010

Nationality: Dutch

Occupation: Lecturer in Animal Science



Lecturer within the School came up, for which again I successfully applied, so currently, I am employed as an Higher Education Lecturer in animal science, whilst doing my PhD research part-time. My MSc supports me in the subjects that I teach and has definitely led to a way of critical scientific thinking needed for my research and teaching.

My current job

My job as a Lecturer in animal science involves teaching a variety of animal science subjects. I teach biochemistry, animal nutrition, animal husbandry, anthrozoology and work-based learning. I enjoy transferring knowledge and interacting with students, but the best part of my job is really specialising in my field of interest.

Future plans

I will be in my current position for at least another five years. After obtaining my PhD I hope to continue teaching on a higher level and do more research in Animal Health and Nutrition Science. I am currently also enrolled in a postgraduate course in teaching in Higher Education, which is supporting me in reaching this goal.

My Writtle College

I chose my course after looking for an MSc course that would allow me to specialise in animal welfare. I found the course at Writtle College through a search on the internet. I hold many fond memories of my MSc – I made many new friends, met experts in my field and was given the opportunity to attend numerous course-related events. I particularly enjoyed the scientific rigour of the course and the interaction with my lecturers.

My career path

Before handing in my dissertation I applied for a PhD position at the College. I was successful in my application and was employed as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) within the School of Sport, Equine and Animal Sciences and as a College Warden for the College in general. During this time, an opportunity to become a



Name: Paul Opio

Graduated: MSc Animal
Production and Nutrition 2011

Nationality: Ugandan

Occupation: National Programme Officer
Livestock Specialist, Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United Nations



My Writtle College

Writtle College will always be part of my history and nothing can change that. The environment at Writtle College is second to none I have seen from my time spent in the UK, and the international student mix makes it even more delightful for sharing experiences and studying in a multi-cultural environment.

My career path and my course

I am a trained veterinarian by profession and through my own work I met many challenges related to production and nutrition. It was after facing these challenges that I decided production and nutrition was the part of my professional area that I needed to strengthen. When I started to search for universities and colleges in the UK that offer this specialism, Writtle College came out so high against competitors with its MSc course that I knew this was where I wanted to study.

My course has offered me everything I needed and particularly the way the modules are delivered to students has been fantastic. The College operates an open door policy and my tutors and technicians in the laboratory are always available whenever I need them and this has made it so easy for me to progress on with my course.

Since returning to Uganda I am now able to contribute to the livestock development in the country as well as to the greater horn of Africa, which is an area full of challenge with persistent drought and food insecurity among the pastoral communities.

Future Plans:

I would like to study for a PhD if the opportunity becomes available for me in the near future.



Name: Caroline Murray

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Equine Studies – 2007

Nationality: British

Occupation: Product Manager, Simba Deckie Group



My Writtle College

The BSc (Hons) Equine Studies appeared to be the most varied of the courses available at the time. Although I had a keen interest in nutrition when choosing my course, I was aware of the difficulty in finding employment in this area and therefore wanted the option to study a variety of subjects in order to widen employment opportunities when I graduated.

I chose career development as one of my College modules which required me to use the careers service to a large extent, which I found very useful. As part of this module I was able to investigate the equine nutrition industry further which again strengthened my contacts in this field.

I really enjoyed my time at Writtle College and made some great friends who have remained close even after finishing College.

My career path

Having worked at a couple of different yards throughout my time studying at Writtle College I carried on with this more practical line of work through the summer after finishing College and whilst keeping an eye out for employment within other areas of the equine industry – namely nutrition. In the September I sent out speculative letters and my CV to a couple of Feed Companies in my area before heading off on holiday. It was while I was in Thailand that the Director of Nutrition at Baileys Horse Feeds contacted me to inform me of the vacancy of Equine Nutritionist that had arisen within the company. The advert was to appear in Horse and Hound the following week. On my return home I looked at the advert and promptly emailed confirmation of my interest in the role. After two interviews, a presentation and 50 written questions to answer, I secured the role of Equine Nutritionist at Baileys Horse Feeds and commenced employment in January 2008.

Without my degree I would not have even been considered for the job I do now. Although I chose nutrition specific modules which have been essential to my role, I found the wider variety of study options my course provided has been highly beneficial also – these included anatomy and physiology; horse health and

exercise physiology. Having to create and deliver presentations as part of some of the modules was also very helpful as this is now quite a large part of my job. The discipline; time management/priority of work and; research skills that a degree requires has undoubtedly helped me in my career also.

Future Plans

Research continues in the many aspects of equine nutrition and we are lucky enough to attend regular conferences that keep us up-to-date with the many progressions that occur. I hope to continue in my role developing in experience and expertise.



Name: Mehrdad Mirazee

Graduated: MSc Postharvest Technology – 2008

Nationality: Iranian

Occupation: Technical manager and research officer (Horticulture and postharvest), Landseer Ltd



My Writtle College

I chose Writtle College because of its excellent reputation in horticulture and related courses (e.g. postharvest), and because of the highly qualified and experienced lecturers. The course also included a number of practical projects, which can support a student in finding a job related to their course post-graduation.

Writtle College has a very close relationship with industry and I found my current job through one of the KTP (Knowledge Transfer Projects) contracts of College.

I have very good memories from my time as a student, and I liked the fact that the College draws in students from around the world. On my course we had students from 20 different nations around the world. I found very good friends and became familiar with a variety of cultures.

My career path

I had been working in different fields related to horticulture for more than 10 years before I decided to come to Writtle College. It was this experience that helped me to find a job before my graduation and while I was working on my dissertation. In fact it was my dissertation supervisor and another member of staff at the College who supported me when I was looking for a job.

My Current Job

I am very happy in my job as it is such a varied post and things change day-to-day. Every day I face a new challenge which constantly increases my knowledge. I was so fortunate to find this job, especially because it specifically relates to my field of study and it also meant that I could stay in Chelmsford. I really like Chelmsford as it is close to London, but it is without the disadvantages of a big city. The company I work for, Landseer Ltd, run several projects in cooperation with Writtle College, which has helped me to keep contact with lecturers and friends.

Name: Hazel Gower

Graduated: BSc (Hons) Sports and Exercise Performance – 2009

Nationality: British

Occupation: PE Teacher



My Writtle College

Studying at Writtle College laid a strong foundation for my career. I chose to study at Writtle College, partly because the induction we had at the open day was so genuine and friendly. I also felt that doing a degree would open up my options.

My career path

After completing my A Levels, I worked for a year in a support role at my old school before choosing to study at Writtle College. Both my family and I have always been into sport and after completing my BSc (Hons) at Writtle I knew the right route for me was to join a graduate training programme to teach PE. I now teach PE to girls aged 11 to 16 and for each class I try to ensure that each sport we cover offers fun and enjoyment.



Name: Lumbani Mwafurirwa

Graduated: Horticulture
(Crop Production) – 2009

Nationality: Malawian

Occupation: Working as Farm Records and Research Officer for ExAgris Africa Ltd based at the Lilongwe Head Office, Malawi



joined the government's Department of Irrigation Services as Irrigation Water Users Association Coordinator before enrolling at Writtle College in September 2008. At the end of my studies and upon returning to Malawi I picked up a part-time lecturing position at a local college and, two months later, offered the current position of Farm Records and Research Officer for ExAgris Africa Limited based at the country head office. Both the lecturing role and my current job are horticultural based, hence my BSc and MSc degrees have all supported me in my career.

My Writtle College

The MSc Horticulture (Crop Production) course at Writtle College covers important trends, developments and production technologies in horticulture in addition to having a research oriented approach within a global context. I consider such a course necessary to agriculture/horticulture development of any country including Malawi. This is why I chose to study at Writtle College.

Studying at Writtle was really interesting. The campus is appropriately sized to enable frequent contact with lecturers, student support staff, careers service advisors, and fellow students. I enjoyed social events at the College and regularly received support and advice from the international staff. Writtle College offers an environment where international students feel at home.

My career path

After graduating with my BSc degree in Horticulture from the University of Malawi's Bunda College of Agriculture in 2006, I

My Current Job

As Farm Records and Research Officer, I am responsible for designing and managing on-farm trials for various purposes such as crop production technologies and conducting market research. Alongside this I compile various types of information and data from records kept at both head office and estate level for the development of analytical reports encompassing technical and financial aspects of farm enterprise performance. This job gives me the opportunity to work as part of a team cooperating with others and at the same time independently. Often, I work from my own initiative, which I greatly enjoy as it allows me freedom to use my own ideas.

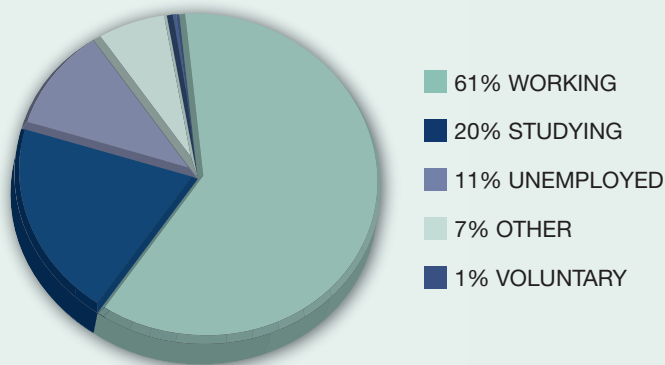
Future Plans

Recently I started a new job offer as Research Associate at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Malawi Centre. This role involves the development of new and improved crop varieties for Africa. Therefore, in a few years I might consider studying for a PhD in Plant Breeding to further support this role.



WRITTLE COLLEGE DESTINATIONS OF LEAVERS HIGHER EDUCATION SURVEY 2009-2010*

DLHE 2009 – 2010



DISCIPLINES:

TYPE OF WORK

Agriculture:	Production Manager, Farm Manager
Equine:	Equine Nutritionist, Yard Manager
Sports and Exercise Performance:	PE Teacher, Coach and Fitness Instructor
Interior Design:	Commercial Interior Designer
Landscape and Garden Design:	Landscape Gardener, Landscape Design Consultant
Art & Design:	Graphic designer
Conservation:	Park Ranger, Landscape Officer
Animal Management:	Animal Nutritionist, Canine Hydrotherapist
Floristry:	Manager of floristry shop
Horticulture:	Arboriculture Consultant, Landscape Architect

Writtle College secured an 80% response rate from 09/10 graduates

82% of Writtle College graduates 09/10 are either in employment or further study.

*Data is the most current held by the College at the time of going to press

Writtle College

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