



IFA Workplace Learning Bursaries Case Studies – ADS/Internet Archaeology



- (1) Name? Emma-Jane O’Riordan
- (2) Placement? ADS/Internet Archaeology
- (3) Education/ previous roles? I gained a single honours degree in Archaeology at Glasgow.
I previously worked as a Site Assistant for Headland Archaeology.
- (4) Hobbies? Playstation, cooking, gardening and going out.
- (5) Favourite archaeological person, book, site or object? Shiny Anglo-Saxon artefacts.
- (6) Where did you see the placement advertised and what inspired you to apply? I didn’t see the advert, but someone I worked with did. I wasn’t looking for another job at the time – but thought that it looked great as it combined computers and archaeology.
- (7) How did you feel when you were offered the post? I was quite excited, but hadn’t really expected it as I felt it was a long shot. I was really surprised when I had the phone call before 9.00 the next morning!
- (8) Best/worst thing about the placement? Best: the fact that you constantly have to think about different techniques and approaches. I really enjoy the variety of tasks in hand.
Worst: the frustration of detail not working correctly with the coding and trying to identify the mistake.
- (9) Biggest achievement/biggest challenge? Biggest achievement: When things go right, feeling I can be trusted to do a task and being given more responsibility. I’ve really enjoyed being able to take the initiative.
Biggest challenge: how to make things work as one project is never the same as another. There are so many different ways of doing things!
- (10) What have you learnt so far? I’ve learnt more about the importance of house style and being firm with the authors for the journal. Also, for the archives, everything has to be legible. It is vital that things are easy to understand and that it is usable. Overall, this will ensure good archiving and that standards are high.
- (11) Future plans/future ambitions? It depends on what’s available. I might look into SMR/HER related work. I really want to use the skills I’ve learnt and not feel that I’ve wasted this year, and my bursary.
- (12) What advice would you give to other people wanting to apply for a training placement? Just go for it! I didn’t expect to get this far. I think you do have to be sure it’s what you want to do as there’s a lot of commitment. Also, there’s a lot to learn – you have to be prepared to keep up with new developments.
- Any other comments? I think the support from my supervisors, Judith and Stuart has been excellent. It’s very important that people on your placement are supportive, and important that staff within the whole organisation are aware of you and are prepared to support you in your training. You shouldn’t be shy - make sure you ask for help and make yourself known.



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