



IFA Workplace Learning Bursaries Case Studies



- (1) Name? Rebecca Beardmore
- (2) Placement? Birmingham Archaeology – Post excavation
- (3) Education/ previous roles? BA Archaeology and Anthropology, Oxford University; MLitt Middle East and Central Asian Security Studies, University of St Andrews. I worked for nearly two years in Kazakhstan before commencing my MLitt, partly as a site assistant at the Laboratory of Geoarchaeology in Almaty, as well as dabbling in some freelance journalism and teaching English.
- (4) Hobbies? Walking, cooking (currently experimenting with Indian cuisine), trying to learn Kazakh for future fieldwork projects.
- (5) Favourite archaeological person, book, site or object? The Kyzyl Kum desert. It's an extraordinary landscape, and bursting with archaeology.
- (6) Where did you see the placement advertised and what inspired you to apply? Someone forwarded me the IFA jobs bulletin. The placement seemed a very attractive balance of training and practical experience in a commercial unit
- (7) Best/worst thing about the placement? The best thing about the placement is that it is a wonderful opportunity to indulge in as much training as possible, and Birmingham Archaeology have been very supportive in this. By the end of the year, I will have gained a very large variety of skills that will see me through many future projects.
- (8) Biggest achievement/biggest challenge? Learning Visual Basic for Applications and the inner workings of Microsoft Access. Also delivering a lecture to undergraduates on material culture.
- (9) What have you learnt so far? A lot, from editing reports, to packing delicate metal objects, and attending a training day on slag. I had not had much experience of British archaeology before the placement, so this has been an invaluable opportunity to learn things such as the workings of Medieval fishponds, and how to identify and date various post-medieval Midlands pottery.
- (10) Future plans/future ambitions? I have just been offered a place at UCL to start a PhD at the end of this placement. I will be looking at the ancient delta of the Syr Darya River in Kazakhstan in the Late Bronze – Early Iron ages
- (11) What advice would you give to other people wanting to apply for a training placement? The placements are a fantastic opportunity to gain new skills and experience in order to further your career in archaeology.