

# GRAD & INTERN RECRUITMENT

pdp





# ABOUT US

PDP is one of New Zealand's fastest-growing environmental science and engineering consultancies. We deliver our clients solutions for their environmental challenges. We work on a range of projects from major infrastructure renewals right through to small monitoring assessments for landowners. We aim to cover the entire range of environmental services required by our clients: in the air, on land or in the water.

We're a very proudly Kiwi employee-owned and operated company, with more than 35 years of operation throughout New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific Islands.

We have offices in Northland, Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, Central Otago and Invercargill.

## QUALITY COLLEAGUES

We have many highly skilled people working at PDP who are often recognised as experts in their field. As a graduate or intern, you will have ready access to these people as colleagues and mentors. From your first day with us, when you meet our CEO and Technical Directors, we intend that you work with our senior people all the time. Our company structure supports this approach, and our current Grads tell us that they do get to work with clients from day one.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Being a responsible business is important to us, and our people are passionate about having a positive impact on the environment and communities we live in. First of all, we endeavour to ensure that the solution we are recommending to our clients is the one with the "best" environmental impact, whether that's a reduction of waste, an improvement in quality or a project where the best products are needed (not necessarily the cheapest).

Our Sustainability Committee leads our approach to environmental sustainability, to reduce our impacts on the natural and built environments in which we operate. As part of our Sustainable Business Strategy, we are measuring waste, our carbon footprint and our other consumables. Once measured, these impacts can be reduced.

Our Community Support Committee helps to facilitate voluntary activities that allow our people to give back to the communities and environments in which we operate. This group aims to support our people to do things that will help their communities with hands-on activities.

Our Emerging Professionals Committee is a newly established group to support our staff in the first few years of their careers. As part of our people-focused culture, this committee encourages on-going networking through organised social and informative events.

## GREAT CULTURE

With a strong focus on health and wellness, as well as an enthusiastic and active social club, we are committed to providing a fun work environment to encourage a work/life balance. Our offices have regular catch-ups, outings, trips and events planned.

## GROWTH

We have a steady track record of growth and currently have over 240 people nationwide, with almost exponential growth in the past year. Our plans for continued growth provide significant opportunities for driven and motivated people to build on their career pathways, diversify their interests and learn new skills.





# AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- AIR QUALITY
- ASBESTOS
- COASTAL
- CIVIL ENGINEERING
- ECOLOGY
- ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
- GEOSPATIAL & DIGITAL SOLUTIONS
- GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES
- HYDROLOGY & RIVER ENGINEERING
- INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY
- PLANNING
- STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
- WATER RESOURCES
- WATER SUPPLY & TREATMENT
- WASTEWATER TREATMENT

# WHAT WE OFFER

## SUMMER

### INTERNS

- Internships run from November to February
- You will have an opportunity to find out what it is like to work as a junior engineer or scientist in a professional consultancy
- We provide an induction programme to help you get familiar with our company
- You will have a buddy who will help you get the most out of your summer work experience
- An opportunity to participate in social activities
- Health and Safety training
- If you are offered a Graduate position at the end of your internship we will maintain ongoing contact with you throughout your final year at university

## GRADUATES

- Our Foundation for Success programme will help you kick-start your career here at PDP
- Get involved in a variety of work with a high level of responsibility
- Social and sport activities throughout the year
- The opportunity to join our mentoring programme, to assist you in your development
- Free annual flu vaccinations
- A day off to attend your graduation
- Welcoming, supportive and flexible work environment



We understand how important it is to receive specific and targeted learning and development in your first few years, setting the foundation for your science or engineering career.

Career development for graduates is designed to enable people with the drive and potential to rapidly progress their career. We aim to create an environment rich in learning opportunities, both on and off the job through courses (internal and external) and conferences.

Initially, you will take part in our Foundation for Success graduate programme. This consists of a series of workshops involving skills to get you underway in addition to a fun team building session.

We highly value continued learning and development, and we ensure you obtain broad experience and an understanding of the range of fields in which we operate. Our professionals have exposure to all stages of the project from feasibility studies through to design, construction, monitoring and field work. This provides excellent development for those wanting broad exposure as well as specialist experience.

We will help you to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours essential for success at each stage of your career. This includes regular development discussions, mentoring and an individual career plan.



# FOUNDATION

# FOR SUCCESS





# SUMMER INTERNS



**Caroline Burse**  
BSc Geography and Geology  
University of Canterbury

Science Intern – Geospatial & Digital Solutions

While at PDP as an intern I have been a part of the geospatial and digital solutions team. Being part of the geospatial team has helped me improve my GIS skills and learn about data analysis and management. A key project I have been involved with is an analysis of a company's assets and the potential impacts of climate change induced flooding. This project stuck out to me as I was able to understand how PDP works with clients and learnt a large range of GIS skills. My internship at PDP has introduced me to the workforce and helped me to gain confidence and form relationships.



**Maia Gerard**  
MSc Biology  
University of Canterbury

Science Intern - Ecology

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at PDP with the ecology team, it has absolutely flown past! My first day in the field we caught a lamprey as part of a biomonitoring project, which are a threatened, nationally vulnerable and super elusive species. While this was definitely a highlight, to be honest, all the work has been a great experience. I've loved getting to spend days in the field learning to recognise all the different species and understanding their ecology. The team at PDP are wonderful to work with and super inclusive with lots of social activities.



**Rebecca Liao**  
BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering &  
BMus  
University of Auckland

Engineering Intern – Water Infrastructure

I have had such a positive experience working at PDP Water Infrastructure Team this summer. I thoroughly enjoyed working on a wide range of exciting projects in the "Three Waters" space. I have had the opportunity to visit a constructed wetland and operating wastewater treatment plants. The best thing about being part of the PDP family is being able to be involved in real projects with the guidance of experienced engineers. Everyone in the company was super approachable and happy to help with any questions. I am very grateful for the experience that PDP has given me in my early engineering career, and they have made me super excited for the future ahead of me as a civil engineer.



**Kimberly Murphy**  
BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering  
University of Auckland

Engineering Intern – Water Infrastructure

I have really enjoyed my summer at PDP. One of the things I have especially enjoyed is being involved in a large mining project. It has been super rewarding as I was involved in the project throughout most of my internship, so I was able to see the work I contributed to progress over that time. I also liked going on the site visits, especially to one of the bigger wastewater treatment plants we look after, as I had never seen any wastewater treatment plants before. I liked this site visit because it meant I was able to see the things that I had learnt about at university, in real life.



**Simon Bath**  
BSc (Hons) Geography and  
Environmental Science  
University of Auckland

Science Intern – Water Quality

PDP employed me as an intern in the summer break between my BSc majoring in Geography and Environmental Science and my Honours degree at the University of Auckland. My time at PDP has been awesome! The company actively demonstrates an interest in growing your career, giving you work which carries responsibility and enables you to utilise many of the skills learnt in university. So far, my favourite project I've been involved in at PDP is flow gauging in catchments around aggregate quarries which involves a decent amount of bush-bashing! It has also been a great experience being able to lead some work and gain management experience in applied science.



**Logan Bradley**  
BEng Civil and Environmental  
Engineering  
University of Auckland

Engineering Intern – Water Infrastructure

I have really enjoyed my time interning at PDP. From fascinating site visits and working on complex projects to completing crosswords at lunch, each day has been different and pushed me to develop my skills as an environmental engineer. The team at PDP have been so welcoming and the opportunity to learn using their vast wealth of experience and knowledge has been amazing. Some of my favorite site visits include helping with the wet commissioning of a new Wastewater Pumping Station (WWPS) and visiting a meat rendering Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Waitoa, (see attached photos). Both these experiences helped to link my theoretical knowledge with on-site experience.



# SUMMER INTERNS



## Lexi Clarkson

Bachelor of Natural Resources  
Engineering  
University of Canterbury

Engineering Intern – Water Infrastructure

I've really enjoyed being an intern again at PDP this summer. I've worked on a variety of projects, including one which I got involved in from the beginning. On this particular piece of work, I was involved with the stormwater and wastewater design, visited the site and did soakage testing, analysed the test results and incorporated them into my design. It has been really interesting being involved throughout the whole project, to see how my work is contributing to the bigger picture, and to apply concepts I've learnt at university to a real project.

The PDP culture has been incredibly welcoming and everyone is always happy to answer my many questions!



## Daniel Schefer

BSc Chemistry and Geography  
University of Canterbury

Planning Intern - Planning

During my time at PDP, while I have primarily been in the Planning team, I have also worked within all of the other teams which has allowed me to gain a great understanding of the wide range of projects carried out by the company. The offices have an incredibly inclusive atmosphere which has encouraged me to get involved with everything possible. One of my favourite projects to date has involved carrying out both soil sampling and infiltration testing for a large sustainable energy development. It has been great to see the project from the very beginning right through the timeline and now to process and report on the data collected previously.



## Tamzin Aldrin

BEng Civil Engineering  
University of Auckland

Engineering Intern – Water Infrastructure

Working at PDP as an intern over the summer has been an invaluable experience for me. Something I found that particularly added to this experience were the site visits. I loved the fact that they were not purely just for educational purposes, and that I was able to participate fully as a proper team member. By being able to fully participate in these site visits, I feel that I learnt a lot more than if I were to simply observe the PDP employees in the field. Every team member was so patient, helpful and always had an answer to my endless stream of questions.



## Chloe Waugh

BSc Earth Sciences and Ecology &  
Biodiversity  
University of Waikato

Science Intern – Water Quality

My summer internship with PDP has been a fun and valuable experience. It is a welcoming and encouraging environment to learn in, with a wide variety of opportunities to get involved with. Through my internship I have found myself being involved in a diverse range of work, from field monitoring and data analysis, to actively sitting in on meetings with clients, public and consultation with iwi. I have greatly valued the diversity of work, the opportunities to travel for work, and being exposed to processes and sites that you wouldn't normally see. PDP has a great culture, with strong positive relationships, even across offices, and I am thoroughly enjoying being a part of it.



## Des McCloy

MSc Water Resource Management  
University of Canterbury

Science Intern - Water Resources

I have thoroughly enjoyed my summer at PDP. The wide variety of projects meant that no week was the same. From finding freshwater crayfish to groundwater sampling and infiltration testing, I have gained a range of new skills that will be extremely valuable in the future. Everyone has been so helpful and approachable with any questions I have had when completing tasks. This has allowed me to get the most out of this internship and I am looking forward to taking these new skills back to the University of Canterbury to complete my Masters of Water Resource Management degree.



## Olivia Martin

BEng Natural Resources  
Engineering  
Canterbury University

Engineering Intern – Water Infrastructure

My internship at PDP has been a great opportunity to apply skills I have learnt in my degree and gain insights into what the future could look like for me. I was involved in a wide range of work, both in the field and the office. Gaining knowledge on hazardous atmosphere assessments for a wastewater treatment plants, wastewater treatment options and land use consents. I valued my time in the field, this allowed me to apply and practice skills I had learnt at university, including soil logging, soils sampling and infiltration testing.





# JACK DIXON

BSc Environmental Science and PGDip Water Resource Management |  
Lincoln University and University of Canterbury

I first encountered PDP when searching for environmental science-related jobs online during my post-grad and came across their website. After reading and investigating what the company is all about, the services they offer and the projects they accomplish, I quickly applied for one of the graduate contaminated land roles that were up for grabs.

Before I knew it, I was a member of the Christchurch Contaminated Land team and I immediately knew that this was the right place to start and grow my career as an environmental consultant.

I was very much drawn to the strong emphasis on work-life balance, the community feel and everyone's approachable, friendly nature. As a firm, PDP prides itself on producing high-quality work across many industries executed by employees who all possess a wide range of knowledge and expertise.

## WHAT DOES A STANDARD DAY LOOK LIKE AND KEY EXPERIENCES?

As an Environmental Geologist/Scientist, I am learning the ropes and gaining experience, spending approximately half of my time (give or take) out in the field carrying out soil, groundwater, surface and stormwater sampling for various contaminants such as heavy metals, hydrocarbons and asbestos.

The other half of my time is spent in the office writing reports for clients and organising the next fieldwork project. One of the best things about my role is being able to spend time outdoors, which has exposed me to many fun and intriguing projects around the South Island. While it is hard to pick a favourite project, from groundwater sampling in Invercargill and the Mackenzie Basin to soil sampling in

Nelson, nothing beats getting paid to experience your own backyard, doing work you love! Researching the history of a site is also super interesting. I thoroughly enjoy discovering the historical sources of contamination and the changes to a site over time.

## WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A PART OF THE PDP TEAM/YOUR WORKGROUP?

One of the best things about being a member of the contaminated land team is the huge variety of types of fieldwork you carry out in different environments. Each fieldwork activity (e.g., soil, groundwater, surface, and stormwater sampling) is followed by various sampling methods, procedures and protocols to spice up your fieldwork experiences. Another great thing is being sent away overnight for field work and chucking a cheeky curry for dinner on the job – how good.

## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE CONSIDERING WORKING HERE?

Without being biased, PDP is the best engineering and environmental consultancy firm in New Zealand, so why would you not want to be part of the best?! We have an inspiring graduate orientation programme equipped for you to start your career all guns blazing. And we cannot forget the countless entertaining activities and events put on by our social committee. They are loved by all and are ridiculously fun.





# KATHERINE GRAY

BE (Hons) Chemical and Process Engineering | University of Canterbury

During my final year at university, I stopped by the PDP stand at a career fair and chatted with some of their team members. Their environmental focus and 100% employee ownership impressed me, so I decided to apply for a position in the Air Quality team when I graduated.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF PDP?

As part of the warm, welcoming culture, we have a celebratory morning tea for new starters to introduce themselves to the team. It is such a great way to start your first day. The company is the perfect size to get to know everyone in your office.

## WHAT DOES YOUR DAY LOOK LIKE?

I start my day like most of the Christchurch team, by cycling to the office (weather dependent). On some days, I work on-site, installing air quality monitors, assessing odour, or taking air samples. During my work day in the office, I prepare air quality assessments, model air discharges, and meet with clients. Air quality work is very varied, covering dust, odour, particulate matter, and other pollutants, so every project is different. When it comes to lunchtime the hardest part is choosing what to eat, there are so many options nearby! On a nice day I like to sit outside and enjoy the sunshine with a view of the Avon river. Aside from project work and picturesque view, I am a member of the PDP sustainability committee, which plans and organises events focused on sustainable practices and reducing office waste and electricity usage.

## WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST PROJECT SO FAR?

After expressing my interest in climate change to my team, I was allowed to prepare a greenhouse gas inventory. Helping to improve and expand our operational greenhouse gas emissions inventory has

been a thoroughly enjoyable experience. I particularly find the process of verifying our emissions inventory and strategising how we plan to reduce those emissions exciting and full of new learning opportunities. This led to preparing an inventory for an MFAT facility in Laos. The flexibility that PDP offers by allowing people to try things outside of their job description is so amazing. It opens up the opportunity to find where your passions lie and even move teams if you want to!

The best part about my team is the support. I attend lots of training and development opportunities as part of my job. From this, I have already helped to manage projects within my first year here and work with some of the leading air quality experts in New Zealand. The flat structure nature of the company means that I have conversations with Technical Directors every day with plenty of freedom to ask them questions when I need help with a project.

## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE CONSIDERING WORKING HERE?

We have an amazingly fun and diverse social committee here at PDP. They organise endless entertaining events for each office throughout the year, which is great for bringing everyone together as a team. We also have an emerging professionals committee that focuses on creating events for people in the first few years of their careers. This creates a super-inclusive company culture that makes working here so much fun. I would highly recommend working at PDP to anyone interested in a career in environmental and engineering consulting.







# DAWN MERCADO

BSc Earth Science and Environmental Science and MSc Engineering Geology | University of Auckland

I discovered PDP at the uni career expo during my third year. One of the team was presenting about a recent project. I found it fascinating and enthralling how passionate they were about their work.

My first impression of PDP was that they are a very people-oriented company with an employee-first mantra. As well as being friendly and easygoing, the people are hardworking and always striving to do their very best.

Over the past year consulting as a Geotech graduate, I have received numerous chances and opportunities for various fieldwork. I have done site walkovers, hand augering, shear vane tests, Scala tests, logging of auger hole and borehole drillings, reporting and the like! I have even tried my hand at various soil sampling works as well.

One of the most memorable projects I was part of would be doing pipeline walks. Our goal is to locate the pipelines on foot and assess the geohazards that may affect their longevity or can result in damage to infrastructure. It was a physical and taxing job (more than people would think). Often, we could work up to 12-hour days, walking for more than 8 hours a day. However, it allowed me to travel to different parts of the North Island, seeing different terrains, geology, landscapes and views. The work itself (walking and locating the pipeline and identifying geohazard features) was nothing like I had been taught at university. It was a new skill that I learnt and developed on the job.

Due to being a fieldworker, my day-to-day can vary depending on where I am working. Office days usually have me working on reports, creating geological logs/sections or preparing for fieldwork. When I am out in the field, I typically do the usual site walkovers, hand

augering and soil logging. Recently, I have been put on CPT (cone penetration tests) supervision work which has been an interesting and valuable experience trying to analyse and understand the data. While it may not be for everyone, I flourish in the 50:50 site/office work dynamic.

## WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING PART OF THE PDP TEAM / YOUR WORKGROUP?

Although the Geotech workgroup is relatively small compared to the others in the company, we certainly make up for it by being a very tight-knit team with a lot of friendly banter. Everyone on my team is super approachable. You can comfortably walk up to any of our team members and talk to them about anything you struggle to grasp. They are always there to help you understand the task at hand and to ensure that you are constantly learning.

## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE CONSIDERING WORKING HERE?

Being a part of PDP means that you get hands-on work experience (both in the field and in the office) in a very friendly and understanding environment. Learning and trying new skills will always be a part of your career, and you will discover your passions along the way.





# BEN ROBINSON

BSc (Hons) Environmental Science | University of Canterbury

## HOW DID YOU DISCOVER PDP?

After finishing my honours degree, I started the daunting graduate job search. I found an opening in the PDP Geospatial team on Seek. As a result, I conducted a deep dive into the company. I wanted to see what they were all about via their website and grad brochure and have a scan of the kind of work they do. Having done so, I was very keen to apply.

My first impression of PDP was how friendly and welcoming everyone was. My first day was just as the 2022 lockdown occurred. I came to the office to grab equipment for my work-from-home set-up. Even with the current circumstances, people were very considerate and friendly as soon as I walked in. Everyone made an effort to welcome me to the company, especially at this time of uncertainty. My colleagues were super supportive throughout my time working from home.

## WHAT DOES YOUR STANDARD DAY LOOK LIKE?

A typical day starts with a giant cup of coffee and a slight post-bike sweat from sending it through Hagley Park with a standard South West headwind pushing against my single-speed commuter bike. However, once I get to my desk, I am ready to crack into the range of tasks assigned to me from various workgroups and projects. I have immense involvement in a range of projects within different teams. Therefore I get the opportunity to meet people with varying backgrounds and interests.

## BEST PROJECT SO FAR?

I have been involved in a geospatial project related to the Sydenham Rezoning in Christchurch. I used a range of Hazardous Land Data to plot out contamination sites around this study area and communicate it to the client. This was via an interactive geospatial dashboard where

the client could see and manipulate the map to comprehend the underlying information. This tested my ability to manage my time, liaise with varying parties, and understand the scope of projects. What made it particularly enjoyable was the ability to work with other teams. As part of a collaborative team with a wide range of skill sets, delivering a specific product to a client is an amazing experience. It shows the importance of communicating effectively with various people and sharing knowledge.

As a member of the Geospatial workgroup, you can be sure you are in an awesome team. Since we are a slightly smaller team, we can get to know each other fairly well and work closely together. I frequently find myself learning new things about my closest coworkers on Monday morning coffee runs.

## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE CONSIDERING WORKING HERE?

Take your time with your application, as you wouldn't want to miss out. It is a great place to work with extraordinary people. We have a range of committees, one of which is our Social Committee, which organises regular events throughout the year that gets you out of the office and meet new people.





# REBECCA BEATTIE

BSc Geography and Environmental Science and M Urban Planning (Professional) | University of Auckland

My first introduction to PDP was through a colleague on secondment at Christchurch City Council. Previously, I worked in the Resource Consent department with a waterways scientist from PDP. I initially thought it was a small and particularly science-focused company. However, I knew the people were passionate about the environment and the work they do to make it better. After working so well together, we kept in touch, and they later helped me land a job here. Now, working here for over a year, I have found the company is larger than I thought and growing, spanning across the country and working across various disciplines.

## WHAT DOES A STANDARD DAY LOOK LIKE?

A day in my life, Monday through Friday starts with a crisp early morning bike ride to work to arrive at the secure, covered bike park where I take my pick from the many open spots, soon to be quickly filled by my fellow cycling commuters. I'm usually the first in the office, so I get first dibs on reading the paper and have a crack at the crossword. Then my exciting day's work can begin. My role is primarily desk-based, preparing resource applications for various clients for both large development projects and smaller jobs across a range of disciplines. I also communicate with the other workgroups with their planning queries and advise the best solution. To break up the day, I pry myself into an intense crossword-solving huddle over morning tea and lunch. On a good day, a stroll in the sun is a must, especially with my weekly 'treat yourself' lunch at one of the hidden gems, Empire Coffee or Herba Gourmet at the Riverside Markets.

This year, I have been given a unique opportunity to draw on my experience in urban planning and pair it with the new skills I've developed, to prepare the district and regional council consent application. This will be for a three-unit, medium-density residential

development in Paekakariki on the Kapiti Coast. In both applications for resource consent, there is quite a bit of diversity, so I am eager to work on different aspects of the project.

## WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING PART OF THE PDP TEAM?

The people-centric culture and passion for the company are among the most rewarding things about being part of PDP. We have so many initiatives and events organized by the various committees, so everyone has the opportunity to get to know one another and give back to the community. The company culture also helps me feel supported in all aspects of my job.

## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE CONSIDERING WORKING HERE?

PDP will give you the best stepping stone and foundation in your career with lots of support, professional development and really fun and social culture. From the first day, you'll be surrounded by a solid team and work-family with a company culture that puts its people first!







# SANJULA KEPPETIWALANA

Dip Civil Engineering | Unitec Institute of Technology

I discovered PDP through a friend from the CAD (computer-aided design) team. He encouraged me to join their three-month Summer Intern Programme, where I worked on the Waitoa WWTP (waste water treatment plant) upgrade project, drafting and 3D modelling. After completing my Civil Engineering Diploma at the Unitec Institute of Technology, I officially joined the team a year later as a new grad.

I was very attracted to work at PDP due to its reputation in employing experienced engineers and hosting a thriving and well-balanced work environment. Aligning with my top priorities, I saw this being the perfect company for me to start my career.

## WHAT DOES A STANDARD DAY LOOK LIKE?

My typical day is a balance of project work and training. I hop off the bus and arrive at the office around 8:30 am. After the daily morning rounds to greet my team, I start my day by clearing my email and Teams inboxes and then get stuck into my current project work. Trickle throughout the day are little treats of coffee runs with the team and afternoon tea excursions around Newmarket. I enjoy these breaks as they allow me to interact with, learn more and develop more meaningful relationships with my colleagues.

The Cambridge WWTP upgrade is my favourite project I have been involved in so far. Based on various calculations, we figured out that a gravity pipeline would be the most practical option for the treatment plant. I was responsible for civil earthworks and the pipeline model and design. The real challenge came in when having to learn new applications on the job. One was Revit, a modelling software program. The other is BIM360, a collaboration app that connects all project stakeholders to execute projects from conceptual design through construction. I really enjoyed learning these applications as they

pushed me to test and use my prior knowledge from other apps as well as enhance my constantly developing skill set.

I have really enjoyed my time here so far. My favourite aspect of being part of the PDP team is working with intelligent and driven professionals. I enjoy the opportunity to grow in my career and learn from the experts we have here. The company culture is second to none we have so many of wonderful people, events and amazing benefits to top it all off. My favourite being the flexibility of working from home or in the office.



## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE CONSIDERING WORKING HERE?

This is a great company to start your career. You will get lots of opportunities to work in the industry, make a name for yourself and grow as an individual. The company supports its employees' growth by providing opportunities to learn new skills, take on challenging projects, and develop professionally. Don't miss out on your chance to join our team!



# NATASHA BYCROFT

BE (Hons) Civil Engineering | University of Auckland

I was first introduced to PDP through a three-month summer internship in the Water Infrastructure team, in the holidays just before my final year of university. I had heard about PDP throughout my time at uni, as they were one of the sponsors of CESA (the Civil Engineering Student Association) and supported the Engineering School's Case Study Competition. After ticking all the boxes, PDP moved to the top of my list because of its focus on environmental issues and expertise in Three Waters.

The team made a great impression right from the interview; I could tell that everyone I met had a huge passion for their work. Having completed over a year working here as a grad, I can confirm that my initial perception has not changed!

My typical working day starts with commuting to the Auckland office in Newmarket, brewing a much-needed coffee and settling into my various tasks. Spreadsheets have become a good friend (nothing more satisfying than getting those complicated formulae to work!). I am often involved in report/proposal writing, costings, modelling and mark-ups for the CAD team. Scattered among these tasks are project meetings, mid-morning coffees (yes, more coffee) with my team and the occasional site visit to spice up the day.

Being a medium-sized company, I've had the opportunity to work on a diverse range of unique projects, where I typically take on a lot of responsibility and have the support of awesome people. Most recently, I have been part of the preliminary and detailed design for the Cambridge WWTP (wastewater treatment plant) Upgrade. The project work has included the hydraulic design and modelling for the plant, biofilter design and dewatering building layout, to name a few; it has been exciting to see this design come to life.

I have also had the chance to do some work relating to land treatment - a niche specialty of PDP. I created a model for a WWTP land discharge system. This model involved taking several inputs added by the operator to estimate the moisture content of the soil. From these estimations, we could determine whether irrigation to a particular paddock within the system was possible. The project was a great learning experience for me. It was an enjoyable and insightful experience, working closely with GIS team members and discovering more about other methods of wastewater discharge that are not just to surface water.

The people who make up the PDP team are hands down the best part of the company. We have such a collaborative environment. Our teams operate closely across different seniority levels. I am often working on reports directly with the Technical Directors. An open office layout also opens up opportunities to learn about other projects the rest of the team is working on and bounce ideas off of others for my work.

## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE CONSIDERING WORKING HERE?

I would tell them to stop thinking and apply! PDP's projects are so varied and engaging, the people are friendly and always happy to answer questions, the office banter and activities keep the mood light, and through our work, you are playing your part in improving our environment.







# OLIVIA HORE

BSc Ecology and Zoology and MSc Ecology (Freshwater) | University of Otago and University of Canterbury

PDP caught my attention via a Seek ad for a graduate freshwater ecologist with skills almost identical to those I had learned at university. I applied and have not looked back since. As my new job started during a lockdown, I worked from home for a few months (only escaping for fieldwork). My team checked in regularly to see how I was doing and feeling. Everyone was super friendly and welcoming despite being online. Although I did not meet anyone in person until we returned to the office several months later, I felt like an integral part of the team.

I remember my second day vividly. We had headed to a lagoon in North Canterbury to collect the nets and traps set up the previous day. The first set of traps was FULL of hundreds of eels and bullies, I had never seen anything like it! Assured this was very unusual, a quick call was made back to the office for extra help and we finally got through all the nets with a slightly late finish. Looking back, at what I call my initiation, I can confidently say I have NEVER seen that many fish in a trap since.

A day in my life as an ecologist is incredibly varied. I am lucky enough to mostly be out doing fieldwork. My tasks range from quick site visits and standard water quality monitoring to intensive fishing trips. I typically do local monitoring jobs. However, we have monthly jobs in Ellesmere, North Canterbury, Ashburton and Banks Peninsula. I could also be sent around the country for one-off or extended fieldwork in places such as Hanmer and Rotorua.

## WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST PROJECT SO FAR?

There are so many projects that I love. One of my monthly monitoring jobs takes me to North Canterbury to conduct routine water quality and periphyton monitoring. As a graduate, having this much trust and

responsibility at such an early stage of my career is amazing. I have been able to lead fieldwork, contact clients and organise field days. For our Rotorua fieldwork, we were involved in a two-day training on using habitat modelling software to estimate the minimum flow in streams. We were shown how to complete habitat surveys, input this data and create minimum flow curves for individual fish species which we later did on our own with some flow gauging.

My office time is typically spent conducting data analysis, organising upcoming fieldwork, writing technical reports from previous fieldwork, assisting with consent reviews or planning social events. The Christchurch office is the best. We have a social committee set up (self-nominated and self-proclaimed), which sees our group getting out and about every couple of months. So far, we've done escape rooms, dinners and paint & sip nights, with more plans on the horizon!

Being such a collaborative company; other workgroups are happy to send work your way if you are ever a bit light on work. It is a fantastic way to get involved across a broad range of work from other areas. I have had the chance to join in on hydrology fieldwork in preparation for some ecology work. It is cool seeing how workgroups link together!

## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE CONSIDERING WORKING HERE?

If you're interested in PDP, you should 100% take the plunge and get involved. It is such a great, close-knit team of people - the work is so exciting and varied. I have made great friends and have been involved in such a great collection of work. Definitely a dream job scenario after finishing university.





# KATE BALSILLIE

BSc Environmental Science and Geospatial Science | Auckland University of Technology

## HOW DID YOU DISCOVER PDP?

I was on the hunt for a graduate job and came across a PDP graduate role advertised on Seek. After reading the description and seeing the grad brochure, it seemed the perfect fit! In a flash, I was on the PDP website and started reading some of the projects. I remember being excited by the expertise and wide range of environmental specialties. I was particularly drawn to the GIS and Water Quality projects. Typically, applying for jobs can be stressful, but I found this process very straightforward.

My first day of work was pretty unique. I arrived in the office and felt very welcomed. Everyone exuded a general sense of passion for their jobs and was excited to have me on board and become a part of the team. This was also my last day in the office, as Auckland went into a snap lockdown for the next 4 months. Being online was more challenging, but people still reached out to connect. Occasionally I would be on a Teams call with a colleague while we would work away on our own work. It was nice to have the company; I appreciated knowing someone was there. I think it showed PDP's people-focused culture in action.

## WHAT DOES MY TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE?

Post-lockdown work life looks a lot different! My days vary depending on the season and what projects are on the go. On an average office day, I will jump from meeting to meeting, write reports, call clients, and create web apps, field maps or figures. And, of course, attend the occasional celebratory office afternoon tea! Fieldwork varies from standing knee-deep in a stream for flow gauging and hiking through native bush to site walkovers investigating stormwater networks. I place a lot of value on the mix of office and fieldwork.

An absolute stand-out project of mine has been with my GIS team. I was part of a group which had the opportunity to teach GIS with a Kura Kaupapa Māori (Māori-language immersion school). I have really appreciated being able to give back to the community so soon after graduating from university. Our intention was to go to the school and introduce the taura (students) to GIS but we were instead introduced to the concept of Ako, as we learnt just as much from the taura as they did from us. From this we also got the opportunity to present our experience at the ESRI user conference 2022 in Christchurch, another stand out experience from my first year as a graduate at PDP.

## WHAT IS YOUR HIGHLIGHT ABOUT BEING PART OF THE PDP TEAM/WORKGROUP?

I am fortunate to be a part of two work groups, the Water Resources and Geospatial teams. I am grateful for the opportunity to develop my passions and skill-sets in both areas of interest. Having the flexibility to carve out a career path and direction is valuable. It allows me to pursue opportunities aligned with my interests with lots of encouraging support.

## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE CONSIDERING WORKING HERE?

PDP is an incredible company to begin your career with plenty of different opportunities, challenging projects and interesting people to meet.







# CAITLIN FRAZER

BSc Geography and PGDip Water Resource Management | University of Canterbury

I discovered PDP when applying for graduate jobs but never applied, thinking I missed the graduate application cut-off date! I remember looking at their 2021 graduate brochure and thought it looked like a fun environment to work in. Later that year, a university friend who was already working in the Auckland Water Resources team referred me to PDP. I then got a job in the (best) Christchurch Water Resources team.

My first impression was that everyone was so friendly and welcoming. My onboarding was super straightforward, especially with a buddy to teach me the ropes. In my first week, I was set up to work on my own groundwater assessment of environmental effects with assistance from a Technical Director. It was exciting to hit the ground running at PDP by working on diverse projects that included different aspects such as groundwater, hydrology and geospatial.

A day in my life is one of two type of days. My office day consists of arriving between 7:30 - 8:00 am (flexible working hours!), smashing out the Stuff morning quiz and filling out our Water Resources calendar tracking the hours to be spent on various projects. I then begin my tasks, this could involve organising upcoming fieldwork, working on a GIS figure, groundwater/hydrology reporting, a consent review, or even organising a team social event. My team are always there to help with any questions I have and generous at providing advice or feedback. I head out to lunch with my colleagues and either sit on the steps of the Avon River or squeeze onto the busy lunch tables in the office. Finally, I grab a couple of fruity mentos from the lolly bowl and head home around 4 – 4:30 pm.

My fieldwork day starts by packing the ute in the morning and heading out to site to collect groundwater quality samples, flow gauge

streams, install groundwater level monitoring equipment, or dip groundwater bores. I typically work locally, but I've also travelled to Rotorua, Blenheim and Invercargill for fieldwork so far.

## WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST PROJECT SO FAR?

It's hard to choose, but spending three days completing a hydrology gauging survey in some beautiful Rotorua streams was unreal. The water is crystal clear, vastly different to the muddy farm drains I'm usually gauging! It was interesting to work on the Rotorua project as we completed habitat surveys which were a new concept to most of the team. We were trained to conduct the surveys and then input the data into the modelling software. I am currently working on the reporting, which later informs minimum flows for different ecology species.

I have learnt so much in my first year of being a graduate at PDP. The opportunity to work on many diverse projects, often interlinked between different workgroups, has allowed me to develop various new skills to grow professionally. I get so much responsibility as a fresh graduate. It's also great to get involved in so many social events in Christchurch; go-karting, wine and paint nights, rock-climbing, or my personal favourite, the CHCH WR table tennis champs.

## WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE CONSIDERING WORKING HERE?

Go for it! PDP is a great company to work for. We have an amazing work culture here. Everyone is so friendly and accommodating, and there are so many opportunities to get involved in.





# APPLICATION ROAD MAP

1. Visit our website



2. Apply online by sending us your CV, cover letter & Transcript



3. We will review all applications & be in touch if you're progressing



4. We will have one or two in-person or online interviews



5. Reference checks



6. Offer made



7. Offer accepted!



8. Woohoo - start with our team!





WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR FUTURE GOING?

CHECKOUT [WWW.PDP.CO.NZ/CAREERS](http://WWW.PDP.CO.NZ/CAREERS) FOR MORE INFO



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