

Graham Duggan, MSc Wild Animal Biology alumnus, 2014

What are you doing now?

I am currently a researcher for a 5-part natural history documentary series about Canadian wildlife. This is being funded and broadcast by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (like the BBC but with a lot less money). My role consists of finding great wildlife stories to be filmed.

The teaching staff were great - our course was mainly made up of guest lecturers; experts in various fields that would come in for a day or two and provide in-depth information on any number of topics (see above). It was also great to make so many which was really great for me.

What did you think of the learning and research facilities at the RVC?

We did a lot of lectures and things at ZSL (over at London Zoo) but many of the RVC facilities that we did use were great. Admittedly, some of the facilities at the Camden campus were a bit tired, but that didn't seem to deter us or affect our learning in any way. Having said that, the computer labs, science labs, and lecture halls were all fairly up to date and nice to learn in. The times that we visited Hawkshead campus were good as we often used the state of the art post mortem facilities. That was a great

experience and really made it feel like we were doing things for real - rather than cutting up dead things in a cold shed (that happened too, but not with RVC, haha).

Has the PGT course at the RVC enabled your career goals as you had hoped?

So far yes! It took some time to get where I wanted to be after graduation. I moved back home to Canada and there never seemed to be too many opportunities in the field that I wanted. I ended up going back to a job in agriculture that I had before starting the course, but was determined to get into the wildlife film industry. So, being confident in my skills, I pursued and pursued, made some great contacts, and eventually was asked to interview for a 2 year production. Still doesn't feel real, but I really feel like I'm putting my learning from the course to good use now (instead of stewing away in the old job) and everything came flooding back to me which is great. I've also made so many amazing friends that are scattered all over the world, ones I can rely on for advice or info on various things that might come up in the job. Overall, it certainly got me to where I wanted to be, but it also takes the effort to keep pushing to where you want to be; no one's going to hand you a dream job right out of the gate and you have to put everything you've learned in play. You can't be afraid to call someone up and ask for their help.