Department of Geography

Introductory music (40 seconds)

Female Student 1 (speaking in the Department of Geography): I came to Durham and I knew straight away that this was the place for me. It combined being in a really nice old city which is beautiful, it’s absolutely stunning, whilst having incredible modern facilities.

Male Student 1 (speaking at the Botanic Garden): The Geography Department is just one big community, you can just wander around and just be keep bumping into people.

Female Student 2 (speaking at the Durham Student Union): The Department is really, really well situated. From where I am at college it’s only a fifteen minute walk to the Department. It is also really close to the centre of town. If you want to go into town to get some shopping or go and get your new pen or something, again it’s about fifteen minutes from the Department.

Male Student 1 (speaking at the Botanic Garden): I don’t know anywhere else where in your first year, some of the first lectures you have the lecturers that are taking you are world experts, straight away, bang, you know, you are straight in. I didn’t even think when I came here in first year that by third year I’d be having one-on-one conversations with the kind of guys who the government goes to them for help.

Male Student 2 (speaking in the Department of Geography Microscope Room): The equipment is everything you could possibly need or dream of. They’ve got it in there somewhere.

Female Student 1 (speaking in the Department of Geography): We’ve just had two new labs built and these are fully climate-controlled. One of them is a geotechnical lab the other one is more of a chemical-based lab, but both of them absolutely brilliant.

Male Student 2 (speaking in the Department of Geography Microscope Room): The technicians are really, really helpful and the lecturers again are brilliant, they just come down and help point out stuff.

Female Student 1 (speaking in the Department of Geography): They had a human kind of core module which covered cities, urban to rural migration, globalisation, development…

Female Student 2 (speaking at the Durham Student Union): My interest in Geography, I’m particularly interested in feminist geographies and urban geographies and the two combined.

Female Student 1 (speaking in the Department of Geography): Before I came I knew that I was really interested in natural hazards and mountain landscapes and Durham was perfectly placed within this part of the discipline.

Female Student 1 (speaking in the Geotechnical Laboratory, Department of Geography): Behind me is the two dimensional shear box. This looks at shear strength of materials which is really important when you’re trying to understand slope stability and thus landsliding.

Female Student 1 (speaking in the Department of Geography): There’s fieldtrips to the Lake District and Skye for physical geographers and to Liverpool and Glasgow for human geographers. Often it’s a little bit cold or you might have to get a little bit muddy to get somewhere but it’s just absolutely brilliant. I’ve never made such a good group of friends from going away.
Female Student 3 (speaking in the Department of Geography): The library’s really close to the Geography Department which is really useful. You can go there after lectures or between seminars and there is lots of useful resources: books, magazines, articles and also the on-line resources that the library have are really helpful.

Male Student 3 (speaking at the Botanic Garden): I think one of the great things about Durham and I think it’s really unique is that we have a collegiate system.

Female Student 1 (speaking in the Department of Geography): It gives you a little bit more than a halls of residence. There are colleges up on the hill which are quite modern then there’s colleges on the Bailey which are a bit more traditional and I think every person can find the right fit of college here which is quite good.

Male Student 3 (speaking at the Botanic Garden): In terms of the social side of being here at Durham whether it’s music or sport, there’s so much to be involved with. It’s fantastic.

Male Student 1 (speaking at the Botanic Garden): I’ve done a fair bit of sport - there’s so much on offer. In my first year I played university hockey and the standard was really high, we were training all the time and things like that and that’s almost like another world.

Female Student 1 (speaking in the Department of Geography): In terms of nightlife there’s a good choice of bars. There’s kind of the sort of more chatty, laid-back sort of wine type bars and then there’s a lot of pubs. There’s also clubs and every night will have a club night on.

Male Student 1 (speaking at the Botanic Garden): You want the best of the best and when it comes to Geography you’ve got to go to Durham.

Female Student 1 (speaking in the Department of Geography): I couldn’t imagine where else I would be quite frankly.

Male Student 1 (speaking at the Botanic Garden): It’s one of the most important choices you make in your life and I’m glad I’ve made the right one. I got lucky.

Freeze and fade to black.

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