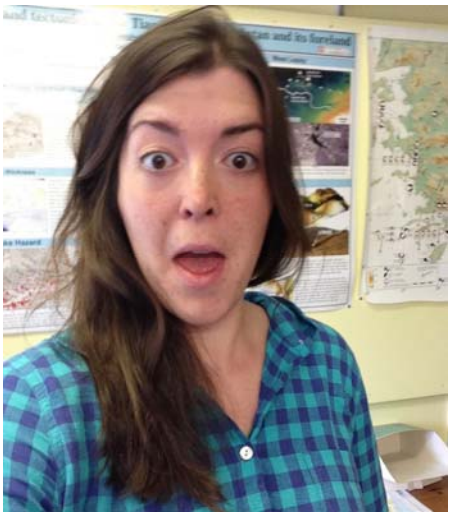

Who are you?

Kirsty Reynolds

What do you do?

Final year PhD student at the University of Cambridge.

What does your job involve?

I use a combination of seismology, remote sensing and numerical modelling to study aspects of active continental deformation, particularly controls on the shape of fold-thrust belt topography and constraints on the structure of active faults. My research is entirely computer based, however throughout my PhD I've had the opportunity to travel – from demonstrating on undergraduate field trips in Greece, to participating in fieldwork to study active faults in India, presenting at conferences in California and teaching at workshops in Italy and Iran.

How did you get there?

I graduated with an MSci Geology from the RSM in 2011 and went straight to the Democratic Republic of Congo for a summer internship with Rio Tinto Exploration. Through this I was offered a job with Rio, and I worked as a FIFO Geoscientist on an iron-ore exploration project in the DRC for a year. This was a great experience and a very practical role, but I decided to return to academia for more technical challenges. Previously I'd focussed on pure geology and fieldwork-based research, but I wanted to expand my knowledge of geophysics and active tectonics, and so I found a PhD where I could learn these new skills and combine some "big-picture" geology with a more numerical approach. Now I'm in the final stages of my PhD I'm looking to move back to the mining industry. Geoscience is a great discipline for moving between industry and research, and the techniques you pick up along the way really compliment both fields.

How do you use your skills in geology and geophysics?

In my research every day! I chose a PhD in topics that I'd studied very little or not at all during my undergraduate degree, but the same skills in gathering data, assessing the evidence and making a well-founded interpretation apply.

What do you love about geology/geophysics?

It's such a tangible subject and it completely changes the way you look at the world – I can't help interpreting the landscape (land-use, climate, economics, how those mountains formed…) wherever I go.

Your best and worst moments?

Best: Yet to come! Probably persuading the Geological Survey of Denmark to take me to Greenland for my MSci research.

Worst: Anything involving adapting someone else's code…