

2) Carmen Fernandez Ardiles

Peru, MSc Taxonomy and Biodiversity, (Life Sciences), 2018

Current role: Flora Specialist for the National Forest Service and Wildlife (SERFOR) in Peru and Founder of the Instituto Cientifico Michael Owen Dillon (IMOD)

Why did you choose Imperial College London?

I studied Msc in Taxonomy & Biodiversity, it was my first choice mainly because of the joint teaching with scientists from the Natural History Museum. Also the course offered the opportunity of studying both in London and Silwood Park.

What were the highlights of your study at Imperial College London?

The location of the university, its closeness to the Natural History Museum. The variety of books in the library but most importantly the immersive experience of studying biodiversity with the top professionals from NHM. I did like the orientation of the student hub.



What did you enjoy most about living in London?

I came from a relatively small city in Peru (Arequipa). Living in London gave me the chance of sharing experiences with people from all over the world. I love it that I was just on a train ride to other cities if I wanted to travel during weekends. Also the location of the university is privileged as I was able to visit the museums and Hyde Park, and the most important tube lines were just a few minutes walking. Being a biologist, the opportunity to study at NHM and visit Kew Gardens whenever I could was a dream come true.

What impact has studying at the College had on your career?

I was able to find a job within the next 6 months of arriving in Peru, also it gave me connections with people in the biodiversity field work. The content of the course was broad and deep enough to learn more about scientific collections and apply it at the herbarium in Arequipa where I'm one of the founders and volunteer work.

What advice would you provide to prospective students of Imperial College?

Fall in love with your course of choice. It would be hard sometimes with the workload and exams, but be sure that everything would be fine when you love your career. Take all the opportunities to improve your studying skills with the workshops and enjoy imperial facilities. Be yourself in your essay application and write it in advance.