A Day in the Life of
Project Scientist

JBS&G
A Geosyntec Company

Name: **Phoebe**

Degree: **BSc (Ecology & Spatial Science), BSc Plant Science (Hons)**

Years at JBS&G: **1**

Why I Chose JBS&G

I was interested in starting my career in contaminated land and wanted a role that combined both field and technical work. The culture seemed to be supportive and friendly and as a smaller company meant I could be more involved in projects and really learn on the job.

What My Week Typically Looks Like

Every week is different, but a typical week would involve either working in the office where I would complete tasks like report writing, GIS mapping or heading on site to complete field work.

Example Day Snapshot

Office day:

8:30am Arrive at the office check emails and plan out day

9:00am Resourcing meeting with the team to discuss workloads

10:00am GIS mapping: creating figures or maps to include in reports

12:00pm Fortnightly mentoring meeting discussing a topic for development or receiving advice on field and office tasks

1:30pm Work on data analysis, report writing or completing odd jobs such as updating data in spreadsheets, preparing supporting documents or writing proposals

4:00pm Preparation for any field work for the next day or wrapping up on any remaining tasks

Field day:

8:00am Arrive on site and complete safety checks and documentation

8:30am Conduct fieldwork (e.g. groundwater, soil or soil vapour sampling)

3:30pm Finish up on site, return to the office

4:00pm Arrive at office and scan / organise field sheets, lab forms or any other form of documentation

4:30pm Finalise tasks and leave for the day

The Types of Projects I Work On

- Preparation of a limited preliminary site investigation (PSI) for a client relating to large-scale development. This investigation was a part of a broad environmental assessment for the project and included the site history assessment of multiple areas to identify the potential for site contamination throughout the development.
- Involvement with ongoing monitoring of water quality, including assistance with monthly groundwater sampling and an annual groundwater monitoring event.
- A detailed site investigation for a client to assist in classifying the contamination status of the site and its suitability for residential redevelopment. Field work for the project included supervision of excavation and drilling, and the sampling of soil and soil vapour. Following field works, assisted in the collation, analysis and graphical visualisation of the data.
- Undertaking a vapour intrusion assessment associated with underlying groundwater contamination for a site regulated by the SA EPA. Field work involved sampling multiple soil vapour bores using summa cannisters to assist in assessing the vapour risk to surrounding inhabitants.

What Surprised Me Most

I was surprised about how varied the work is – there's many different projects to work on and I find that no two days are always the same, especially when balancing field days and office work.

How I'm Developing

I'm continually building technical skills in sampling and reporting through guidance from my team. With the mentoring program, I have additional support from an interstate mentor providing the opportunity to learn from someone more experienced in my field.

I also have the opportunity to attend industry-run technical presentations (e.g. ACLCA) to learn about new practices and network with others in the contaminated land industry.

What Makes This Role Rewarding

I find this role rewarding through knowing that the work that I am doing is helping someone in some way (either for clients, or other members of the team) and knowing that my work is contributing to something of value.

Advice for Future Graduates

Find something that you enjoy or are passionate about and use that to stay motivated. Having a desire to grow and improve really helps – give yourself goals, be proactive, and take up any opportunities that are offered to you.

Scan to stay connected for future opportunities