A Day in the Life of
Project Consultant

JBS&G
A Geosyntec Company

Name: **Amanda**

Degree: **Bachelor of Environmental Engineering (Hons)**

Years at JBS&G: **3**

Why I Chose JBS&G

JBS&G has a people first culture, with the smaller contaminated land team in SA, meaning graduates are exposed to more projects and higher variability of work within the first few years that helps you grow.

What My Week Typically Looks Like

Working in Contaminated Land has a large variability for day-to-day work. Some projects can last months, and you can be in the field day in day out sampling groundwater, soil or soil vapour. Sometimes you can spend weeks in the office doing reporting at all different life stages of projects from proposals, preliminary site investigations, intrusive works reporting and finalising reports. There are also times that as an early careers professional you are invited to go into client, EPA or auditor meetings with your Project Manager to listen in on some very important conversations. Working with JBS&G has led me to work on boats for weeks out on the ocean, to doing soil sampling in quarries, or even groundwater sampling at Defence bases.

Example Day Snapshot

In the office

Usually when I am in the office my mornings will start by checking my emails and checking in with my Project Managers to ensure that my priorities haven't changed. From here I will progress with working through my reports that I have, generating data analysis tables for review, writing a proposal for a new set of works or doing service and maintenance on our field equipment if required.

In the field

For days in the field this usually will start at around 7am, with having prepped the day before with all the equipment and paperwork. Field work can consist of supervising drillers in installing groundwater wells, drilling and sampling of soil bores, or drilling and installation of soil vapour bores. Some works have already established wells for soil vapour or groundwater and consist of going out to sample these.

The Types of Projects I Work On

Soil Vapour, Air Quality and Groundwater Monitoring Program, South Australia

- Delivering annual soil vapour and groundwater monitoring events for a large industrial facility in coastal South Australia. We implemented indoor air and soil vapour monitoring programs, including deployment of passive samplers, in-situ air quality screening using field instrumentation, and soil vapour sampling via installed extraction points and sub-slab locations. Groundwater monitoring was undertaken across 16 wells using low-flow and alternative sampling techniques suited to site conditions. I was the primary author of monitoring reports, interpreting data to assess natural attenuation of chlorinated solvent impacts and supporting evidence-based decisions regarding the cessation of remediation and ongoing monitoring.

Groundwater Investigation and Remediation Project, South Australia

- Led an Environmental Due Diligence assessment for a commercial site acquisition to identify potential environmental liabilities. Investigations identified minor PFAS impacts in groundwater, along with hydrocarbon contamination affecting soil and groundwater. Managed subsequent remediation works, including the decommissioning and removal of three underground petroleum storage tanks and the removal of contaminated materials to the extent practicable. Prepared statutory notifications to the environmental regulator and led further investigations to delineate the PFAS plume and assess potential sources. Through targeted assessment and technical analysis, confirmed no on-site PFAS source, enabling investigations to conclude and reducing client liability exposure. Acted as Project Manager for all works, led field programs, and was the primary author of technical reporting.

What Surprised Me Most

How much autonomy you get on a project once completing your probation period. Project scales can be as little as council soil assessments to move material, to multi-million-dollar projects which last years and lead to very broad investigations.

How I'm Developing

Since completing the graduate years and receiving two promotions in the time I have been with JBS&G, I am currently trying to develop my technical skills in different contamination areas, mainly in marine environments and sites relating to PFAS. I am doing so by attending ACLCA training events as well as internal training. JBS&G offer a mentoring program during your first year, which allows everyone at all levels to participate. There is an ongoing push to grow at JBS&G and allow people to grow throughout all stages of their careers.

What Makes This Role Rewarding

There is a lot of things that are rewarding about being a part of JBS&G. The team has great culture and encourages growth. There is space and time to be better while also being challenged. The variety of jobs you work on during the first few years is vast and allows growth in a lot a different areas.

Advice for Future Graduates

I didn't know what contaminated land was when I applied, at the time I was bulk applying and praying. When I got the call for the interview with JBS&G I was shocked and had to do some research into the company and industry prior to the interview. Three years on I am glad I applied for jobs I had no idea what they were, and I would encourage graduates to move beyond the realm of what they know because you don't know what is out there. Also prepare ahead of interviews, find out as much as you can about the company and come prepared with a question that you can pose to the panel to better understand the position. For me as an aboriginal person I morally align with companies that have reconciliation action plans or are working towards that.

Scan to stay connected for future opportunities