

BioGs

Biographies of IGES Graduates

ANGÉLIQUE CRYSTAL

NOW WORKS FOR: RIO TINTO MINING AND EXPLORATION LIMITED
EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST - SOUTH AFRICA



I grew up following my Dad around the gold fields of Southern Africa so this has always been the obvious career for me, although it hasn't always seemed that way. I graduated last year with an Upper Second Class degree in Environmental Earth Science and so far have been to some amazing places. My mining career started in the summer of my second year when I went to the Cavanacaw Gold Mine in Northern Ireland operated by the Galantas Gold Corporation for two weeks work experience. I was then asked to stay on for the rest of the summer assisting with the drilling program and after a quick change in direction I was commissioned to do my dissertation for the company based on the work I was doing. This proved a bit of a success and the day after my final exam I was on my way back up to Ireland to work as the mine/exploration geologist.

In my second year I had applied for the Rio Tinto Summer Student Placement Program and was accepted for a position in Mauritania. So I started a six week placement on a diamond exploration drilling program in the Taoudeni Basin, part of the Western Sahara where this photograph was taken. This consisted of two weeks in the offices in Nouakchott and then a month out in the desert on the drilling program where I was responsible for a range of duties including logging chip recovery, samples and drill site rehabilitation. I had a complete blast out there, it was completely awesome and although it was tough I loved every minute of it.

Following my placement I was selected for the Rio Tinto Graduate program and was offered the position of exploration geologist in South Africa, where I've been relocated to. I started my current role in RTX where my duties include some office based data management and leading a field team on drilling programs in various projects around South Africa.