

Bright future for green graduate jobs

Green is Dariush Bazazi's favourite colour. In fact, it is his career.

Participation in the Environmental Placement Programme (EPP) helped him win a job as a Grading Advisor at the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS), the Perth-based national sustainable tourism certification scheme for the UK.

Then studying environmental geoscience at Edinburgh University, he was placed at the George Hotel in Edinburgh for one day a week for six months as Green Tourism Co-ordinator with an objective of gaining Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) accreditation. It subsequently achieved the Silver Award.

"Many hotels are trying to stand out from their rivals and GTBS recognition is one way they can do this," Dariush (pictured) said. "I researched and prepared a document setting out how the George Hotel could meet the criteria. We agreed around 150 measures covering a variety of sectors including energy, water, waste, and internal and external communications."

Recycling systems were improved, portable coolers replaced with systems plugged into the mains, a sustainable travel policy developed and staff trained on energy awareness. Staff also carried out community work to help increase the number of puffins on Craigleith island in the Forth estuary.

Suppliers were screened for their 'green' credentials, the hotel joined the John Muir Trust and Fairtrade products were added to the wine list.

Dariush, who is from Edinburgh, previously spent eight weeks with Green Business Fife, helping develop an awards scheme and its Website.

"I seem always to have been interested in working in the environmental field," he said. "My experience at the George Hotel gave me a good understanding of the criteria for GBTS accreditation and so when I saw the job advertisement it jumped out at me."

He began work as a Grading Advisor shortly after sitting his final examination and now travels widely in his post, mostly throughout Scotland.

"The EPP is very well managed and unique in what it does," he commented. "It gives students innovative work experience with solid responsibility and its projects are very worthwhile. The programme has certainly given my career a boost."