



PES  **GB**
Young Professionals

PESGB YP

Career Profiles

Young Professional Career Profiles

Amrit Hamechan Madhoo

3.5 years in the industry

A Levels

I did not study A Levels (I studied O Levels (GCSEs) only followed by university directly)

Degree(s)

B.Sc. Geology, Kingston University London and Queens College City University of New York
M.Sc. Petroleum Geoscience, Royal Holloway University of London

What got you interested in the industry when you were leaving school?

A strong interest in science and a general interest in the natural sciences and natural history.

Previous Role

2011 – *Petroleum Geologist, Cuadrilla Resources Ltd.*

Worked on the UK's first shale gas well during my M.Sc. This formed the basis of my M.Sc. thesis and laid the foundation for understanding and adapting to the technical, commercial and social challenges of exploring for and producing oil and gas.

Current Role

Oct 2011 to present – *Geologist, Schlumberger*

I have been working on creating workflows to address challenges with exploring for, and developing structurally and stratigraphically complex reservoirs, both in conventionals and unconventionals. Previous knowledge and experience from Cuadrilla helped me to specialise in unconventionals in Schlumberger, whilst my M.Sc. as a whole gave me a great foundation to work on conventional projects as well.



Christopher Cowley

4 years in the industry

A Levels

Geography, Business Studies, Philosophy

Degree(s)

B.Sc. Geological Science, Leeds
Integrated Petroleum Geoscience, Aberdeen

What got you interested in the industry when you were leaving school?

I remember being taught GCSE Geology when I was 14 years old by a brilliant teacher who made the subject really come to life. I told my mum that when I was older I wanted to "be one of the people who looks for oil" not really fully understanding what that entailed. I then adopted the mantra of doing subjects I'd enjoy, and I would end up somewhere I enjoyed. Fast forward a few years and I'm finishing my Geological Science degree at Leeds not really knowing what I was going to do with it; I looked at the modules I enjoyed most as part of my degree and they all pointed towards the oil industry, so here I am.

Previous Roles

Support Geoscientist, Senergy

Geologist, Senergy

My time at Senergy was mostly spent in the Exploration Team, concentrating a great deal of my time on the North Falkland Basin. This gave me a great introduction to the industry from a consultancy point of view, allowing me to get involved with multiple projects in a relatively short space of time. After a few years of this, I fancied trying my hand at longer-term projects I could really get my teeth into so took the decision to move to an operating company.

Current Role

Graduate Geoscientist – CNR International



John Waldron

4 years in the industry

A Levels

Geography, Maths, Philosophy & Ethics, Biology, Chemistry

Degree(s)

Master of Earth Science (MSci) - Oxford

What got you interested in the industry when you were leaving school?

I was always very interested in how the world around me worked and the science behind the amazing landscapes in the UK, so geology was a natural choice.

Previous Roles

I started out on the Centrica graduate scheme in September 2010 and have worked with Centrica ever since; however, I have had a hugely varied career and have been lucky enough to work on many different basins. I began working in Windsor on the East Irish Sea primarily doing geophysical work such as seismic interpretation and depth conversion. I then moved to work in the exploration/new basins team and very briefly worked onshore Egypt and Geothermal Power, before moving on to a large regional project in the West of Shetland basin – resulting in a new basin entry for Centrica. After this project came to an end I began working as an Operations Geologist in Aberdeen, this role lasted 8 months and I spent valuable time offshore. Since then I have worked on the Central North Sea, multiple shale gas basins and now my current role in the SNS. Every time you work on a different project or a different area in the world you are exposed to new geology, new ways of thinking, and different techniques. The varied career I have had so far has allowed me to build up my "toolbox" which has certainly been useful in my new role – however there's plenty more to learn!



James Harpin

8 years in the industry

A Levels

Geology, Physics, Chemistry

Degree(s)

MSci Geology – University of Birmingham
MSc Petroleum Geoscience – Imperial College

What got you interested in the industry when you were leaving school?

I really enjoyed Physical Geography at GCSE, things like plate tectonics. This led to me studying Geology at A-Level, which was my favourite subject.

Previous Roles

Following my undergraduate degree I was a Geological Data Analyst and then Researcher in oil and gas. I really enjoyed the industry, but wanted to be more technical, so I went back to university to study an MSc.

Current Role

Geologist - Petrofac



Shereen Nairne

8 years in the industry

Degree(s)

BSc Geology University of the West Indies – Mona Campus Jamaica
MSc Integrated Petroleum Geoscience – University of Aberdeen Scotland

What got you interested in the industry when you were leaving school?

I was mostly interested in the opportunity to work in my field of study- I have a passion for earth sciences. My knowledge of the industry was not very comprehensive at that time, but it seemed like an interesting path to follow and I don't regret it!

Previous Roles

Geoscientist – Ikon Science
Geoscientist – MPX UK Ltd

Current Role

Geophysicist – GDF SUEZ E&P UK Ltd

Simone Silcock

10 years in the industry

A Levels

Geography and Psychology, with AS' levels in Geology and Statistics

Degree(s)

BSc Resource and Applied Geology, University of Birmingham
MSc Petroleum Geology, University of Aberdeen
MBA, University of Worcester

What got you interested in the industry when you were leaving school?

I didn't consider joining the industry until my final year of BSc. Before that I had always considered a career as a teacher. After my BSc I looked into several post graduate opportunities, petroleum, hydro-geology, teaching, PhD, urban geochemistry. Petroleum looked to offer the best career opportunities.

Previous Role

I spent 8 ½ years with Merlin Energy Resources as a consultant geoscientist, which gave a great variety of projects from regional to reservoir detail.

Current role

Principal Reservoir Geophysicist for Statoil in Aberdeen, (principal in Statoil equates to someone with >8 years' experience, possibly a senior in other companies).



PESGB Young Professionals

Who are the PESGB Young Professionals?

The PESGB YPs are a group within the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain who cater to the needs of those with 10 or less years experience in the oil and gas industry. The YP group is run by Young Professionals, for Young Professionals.



What is the aim of the PESGB Young Professionals?

The Young Professionals' aim is to support and develop early career geoscientists; allowing everybody from students, new graduates and not-so-new graduates to benefit from cross-industry communication channels.



What can the PESGB Young Professionals do for me?

The YP community is active year-round, and you're always welcome to come along. Seminars are frequently hosted, along with networking and social events, annual lectures, field trips and more. The YPs also manage the society-wide mentoring scheme and undergraduate mapping sponsorships.



How do I get involved?

Register your interest in the Young Professionals through the PESGB website or contact the YPs:

✉ pesgbyp@gmail.com
f [facebook.com/PESGBYP](https://www.facebook.com/PESGBYP)
t @PESGBYP



Building networks is so important; the YPs offer a range of networking opportunities from learning opportunities to competitive socials.



I believe that being a part of the PESGB YP committee provides me with the opportunity to encourage the participation of young professionals in the broader PESGB society. By building networks with other YP's and more experienced professionals we can go some way in bridging the gap between us.

It is a fantastic opportunity to meet other YPs and network, plus it broadens your perspectives and you can get great visibility in the industry.



I got involved with the YPs as I had been to some of the events and always had a brilliant time, whilst still learning a lot. For me it adds a huge amount of value, both by providing informal networking events and by hosting educational seminars and marquee events such as the House of Commons Event. I am also very proud of the work the YPs have done to aid the next generation entering our industry – the mapping sponsorship helps financially, and the university visits and intermingling of YPs and students at our events help those hoping to join our industry get a flavour of what their career might actually be like. The true value for me is creating a forum where YPs can meet other like-minded individuals from other companies, expanding their horizons and enabling the exchange of ideas and knowledge.



I moved to Aberdeen and didn't know anyone in the industry, joining the YPs gave me an instant network and I've certainly made friends for life. I think getting to know people, building a network and having fellow geoscientists to discuss work issues with are the biggest benefits.



It's a very small industry – so professional networks are extremely important.

Every company is a business! You can conceive the most fantastic scenario for basin development, or for fault-system evolution, but it is meaningless until/unless it impacts the net present value. Basically, it would have been very instructive to understand early on that both operator and service company alike needs to make a profit. And that is the bottom line!

Get involved in a committee, volunteer to help out on a campaign, etc. Just take every single opportunity and run with it. Especially in the petroleum industry, reputation and networks matter. You are more likely to be given diverse opportunities if you make yourself visible, both technically and socially.

It is really important to have a job that you enjoy doing, both motivating and challenging. Important to get a good work-life balance and get involved in anything you can – present at conferences, write papers, join committees.

Take the time to compare your job as a geoscientist to those of your friends who have gone into other office based jobs – it makes me realise how fortunate I am to be doing something that I enjoy!

It's fine if you don't start with a major operator, working for a small consultancy meant that I was exposed to potentially much more of the industry than I would have been for an operator. After a few years you focus on geology, geophysics or petrophysics and tend to spend the rest of your career doing that role. Very few companies offer geoscience roles, but some companies do support a change between disciplines.

I wish I was more forthcoming with my questions. Almost everybody you encounter is willing to help you, and they certainly do not expect you to know everything fresh from your MSc!

Jobs are in very specific locations, so you need to be prepared to move around. It's cyclical, so sometimes you need to hang in there.

Take advantage of the experienced people surrounding you and learn from them.

It is full of men – we need more intelligent women to even out the score!

With lots of hard work, commitment and a bit of confidence, you will go far in this industry.

What I wish I knew when I started in the industry...

