

# Environment Agency

**Overview:** The Environment Agency conserves and improves the environment in England and Wales



## The business background

The Environment Agency is the leading public body for protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales. It is responsible for making sure that air, land and water are looked after by everyone in today's society, so that tomorrow's generations inherit a cleaner, healthier world.

It sought to recruit a graduate as a junior member of its Flood Incident Team and contacted Bournemouth University's STRIDE project, which organises and facilitates graduate placements within businesses.

## Achievements & outcomes

The agency took on Judson Bellary with responsibility for continuing the development of "George", a procedures access database. His predecessor had initially created "George" but it needed to be completed before it could be launched.

Subsequently, Judson embarked on a new project, the development of a second database to be used in a different team and with different specifications. This was created using the newer ASP.net language to help the agency keep up to date with changing IT systems.

## Tangible benefits

Judson's technical expertise proved invaluable to the agency with the in-house development of the databases saving the agency both time and money. Judson's contribution also helped to balance the workload of his team. Following the successful development of "George", the database is now live and accessible across the Environment Agency.

The database enabled operational Flood Warning procedures to be improved and has integrated many systems so that they link together. For Judson the placement has allowed him to put into practice skills gained at University, as well as improving his understanding of project life cycles. In addition, in order to broaden his knowledge base Judson has gone on to do further training alongside his work.

### Fast Facts

- The Environment Agency is responsible for environmental protection and improvement.
- Due to an opening in its Flood Incident Team, the agency sought a graduate employee and contacted Bournemouth University.
- The agency subsequently employed Judson Bellary through the STRIDE project.
- During this placement Judson brought invaluable technical expertise to the agency and developed two databases, which have facilitated the team's flood warning work.

## Talent, opportunities, success

### Benefits to the **Student**

- Improved skills and knowledge
- Exposure to the business world and opportunities to learn about different sectors
- Supportive mentoring and guidance to improve success
- Increased confidence
- Enhanced experience and expertise

### Benefits to the **Business**

- Working with Careers Services allows businesses to establish and build links with their local higher education institution
- Increased awareness of the range of services and collaborative opportunities on offer
- Improved staff coaching and mentoring skills



## The viable solution for students, business & higher education

### The business perspective

"Judson's technical skills have been perfect for the placement and have enabled the Environment Agency to continue to progress projects to increase effectiveness. Without this placement these assignments may have been shelved. STRIDE provided a quick, effective service and I would not hesitate to call on the team again."

**Vicky Farwig, Acting Technical Specialist, Environment Agency**

### The university perspective

"This has been an excellent opportunity for both Judson and for the Environment Agency. This proves the value of allowing graduates to fulfil their potential within the workplace and also shows organisations how they can gain from graduate level input on their projects."

**Sam Wilcox, STRIDE Project Officer, Bournemouth University**



### The student perspective

"This placement has enabled me to use my technical skills in a real working environment and given me the opportunity to develop new skills on the job. This placement is giving me the confidence with my current technical skills and increasing my ambition to try more complex tasks."

**Judson Bellary, STRIDE graduate**

Talent

Opportunities

Success

## South West Graduates for Business Project

### Aim

Our aim is to increase the uptake and impact of graduates and students working with businesses in the South West, for mutual benefit

### The Service

- Graduate and student placement programmes
- Free online vacancy advertisements with access to over 20,000 highly skilled active job seekers
- Advice on recruitment and retention
- Events and seminars for businesses

- Information on continued professional development opportunities, courses and events
- Mentoring and guidance for graduates and students
- Your local university careers office can work with you to support placement activity and to offer recruitment promotion opportunities such as careers fairs, campus presentations and interview facilities

### The next step

You can find details of these services and contacts for your local university's careers service at [www.gradsouthwest.com](http://www.gradsouthwest.com)