

Who was on the Black Sea MAP expedition?

Libys
McGuinness -
STEM scholar



Why did you apply to be involved in Black Sea MAP?

At school I was always interested in science and hands-on subjects. I knew I wanted to one day work in a field that revolved around these subjects. When the Black Sea MAP became available to apply for, it was an opportunity for me to step into the science world, and confirm it was what I wanted for my future. It helped steer me in the right direction to what would suit my skill set.

What did your role involve as a Black Sea MAP STEM Scholar?

As a Black Sea MAP STEM Scholar I spent most of my time talking to leading scientists in their fields, watching them work and asking questions. I was lucky enough to be one of the few chosen to attend the Bulgaria expedition, this allowed me to be able to watch and work alongside scientists and archaeologists from around the world.



What skills did you use or improve?

During my time with the Black Sea MAP, I became increasingly good at listening and applying book-learned knowledge to real-life situations. Adaptability was an important skill as often circumstances changed which altered the work we could perform or research we could do.

What was a highlight for you of Black Sea MAP?

For me the highlight of the trip was being around so many accredited scientists and watching a working ship as its crews performed their daily routines. Making lifelong friends was also a very special factor in the programme.

Which subjects did you study at school?

BTEC: Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
A-level: Biology and English Creative Writing.

What are you doing now/hope to do next?

I am currently studying for a degree in Paramedical Sciences.

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Do you have a job you think you would like to do in the future?

Expedition medic/paramedic.

Were there any specific influences or motivations that led you to that job idea?

Whilst on the ship we received a talk from an expedition medic. I spent most of my time fascinated by his stories and activities. He really inspired me to follow this path and I am really enjoying it!

What advice would you give a younger student?

If you are given an opportunity like this, don't wait or worry, just take it as you will never be given another opportunity like it again. I wouldn't have changed any part of my time with Black Sea MAP, it was one of the most memorable and exciting things I have ever done!