



## **The Value of Student Placement Schemes in Promoting an Understanding of the Geoscientist's Role in Sustainable Development**

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Here it is suggested that the development of geoscientist student placement opportunities in international development contexts has an important role to play in the promotion of geoethics. In this paper we (i) describe Geology for Global Development (GfGD), a growing organisation where we have established development placement opportunities for geoscientist students; (ii) outline the initial placements that we have established and monitored; (iii) describe feedback we have had from students and those they have been working with. The work of GfGD aims to encourage and support young geoscientists in the growth of appropriate skills and knowledge that they will need throughout their careers in order to make a positive, effective, and greater contribution to international development and the fight against global poverty. An important part of GfGD work is the establishment of placement schemes that give young geoscientists the opportunity to spend time with those undertaking development and humanitarian work. These placements aim to (i) give geoscientist students a preliminary exposure to the development sector, (ii) enable a better understanding of how geoscience can be integrated into these important aspects of work, (iii) give development professionals an opportunity to grow in their understanding of the application of the geosciences within their own local context. Our initial assessments and lessons learnt include: (i) placements in the geoscientists home country as well as overseas are very valuable; (ii) e-resources are very effective to disseminate the experiences of students undertaking placements to their peers; (iii) placements highlight the complexity of real-life scenarios; and (iv) students benefit from these opportunities by identifying their knowledge gaps. We believe that these placements, in addition to being invaluable for skills and knowledge transfer in both directions, aid student geoscientists to better understand their role and responsibility in contributing to global, sustainable development