

CLARA CHEN

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EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

University of Sheffield, UK

- 2015-2018 PhD in Biology – Predicting and managing the recovery of tropical forests
2014-2015 Master of Research in Ecology and Environment – Distinction (78%), 1st in class
2011-2014 BSc (Hons) in Ecology and Conservation Biology – First Class with Honours

2004-2011 Duchess Community High School, Albury, UK

A Level: Biology (A), Mathematics (A), Chemistry (B), AS Level Politics (B)
GCSE: 11 subjects (2 A*, 6 A and 3 B)

EXPERIENCE

Postgraduate Researcher, 2015-2018

- **Planned and coordinated** all aspects of field trips to the Amazon, Congo and Asia-Pacific regions.
- **Developed data-driven models** to analyse large data sets and generate statistical predictions.
- Solely responsible for over £50K of equipment, including maintenance, servicing and **training**.
- **Negotiated** a 30% discount on a £200K purchase of field equipment.
- **Supervised, trained and motivated** a Master's student for 6 months.

Undergraduate Seminar Leader and Fieldwork Demonstrator, 2016-2018

- **Taught** undergraduate seminar classes of up to 30 students on various subjects.
- Over **300 hours** of fieldwork demonstrating and leading seminar experience.
- Attended a four day training course on effective **communication and teaching methods**.

CEO of 'Flower-cellar' - Environmental Young Entrepreneurs Scheme, 2018

- Three-day residential trip including presentations from leading figures in the renewable energy industry on: the requirements of a **business plan**; intellectual property; patent strategy; raising and managing finance and commercial and **marketing strategies**.
- Will **pitch** our business plan, which involves utilising wildflowers to create a clean biofuel, to a group of 'venture capitalists' in a 'Dragon's Den' like environment.
- Competition to commence in April.

Environment and Enterprise MRes course module, 2015

- Incorporated interactive workshops by leading entrepreneurs and academics on setting up an eco-tech company including; **business planning**, company structures and **finance**.
- **Led a team** to write a business plan of our idea, culminating in a pitch to our peers.
- Idea subsequently selected for the Ecology YES competition.
- Awarded a module **mark of 80%**, the highest in the class.

Part-Time Work, 2009-2015

- Sales Adviser and **Supervisor** at Eden Organic, 2012-2015
- Telephone **Fundraiser** for Earth Matters, 2012-2013
- **Team Leader** at Underwood's Garden Centre, 2009-2012

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Volunteer Manager, Sharrow Green Community Orchard, 2016-Present

- **Recruited, inducted and trained** a team of volunteers covering aspects of health and safety, policy and procedures, orchard maintenance and team work.
- **Organised** regular events and activities, rotas, training days and social events which **improved retention of volunteers** by 40% over an 18 month period.
- **Created partnerships and mentoring scheme** with local schools and groups resulting in greater **diversity** of committee and volunteers, work experience placements and skills training to the local community.

Coordinator, University of Sheffield Green Earth Society, 2016-2018

- Responsible for all club activities from **finance** to **risk assessments** and **recruitment**.
- Successfully expanded club membership from 22 to 56 members and average meeting attendance from 6 to 15 on a very **limited budget**.

Student Chair, Undergraduate Staff-Student Committee, 2012-2014

- **Elected** to the committee by my peers and subsequently chosen to undertake the chairperson role.
- Negotiated with staff to improve marking feedback to students resulting in an **increase in student satisfaction** in this area from 67% to 92%.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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| 2018 | University of Sheffield Doctoral Prize (Nominated)
Awarded to one student per year in recognition of a thesis of high scientific quality and scholarship leading to publications in major international journals. |
| 2017 | Department of Animal and Plant Sciences Poster Prize
Won best research poster within my department with competition from ~50 researchers including established postdoctoral scientists. |
| 2016-2018 | Three International Conference Travel Grants (£2000)
Applied to learned societies and University of Sheffield to present exceptional scientific research at major international conferences - 100% success rate despite fierce competition from experienced researchers. |
| 2015 | NERC Four-year doctoral training scholarship (£100,000)
150 national awards given to talented research students. |

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **Three first author papers** published in **The TREE journal, Trends in Tree Biology and Forest**, and a further two first author manuscripts in preparation. Two of these are **major world leading** peer reviewed journals whilst the third is the highest ranking in my field.
- Presented work at **three major international conferences** and two national conferences. Awarded **prize for best poster** presentation at the International Earth Research Conference in Iowa, USA.

OTHER INTERESTS

- **Research, write and edit** an e-newsletter, 'Ethical Eating' with a distribution of ~1200 people.
- Currently training for a 100k endurance trek.

REFERENCES

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