

NIAMH BRITTON



“ I first became interested in plant science in my first year at university; I was surprised and intrigued by the diverse evolutionary strategies deployed by plants to survive as sessile organisms in different environments. ”

First Degree

BA Biological Sciences (Hons. Evolutionary Biology)
with a year in industry at CEH Edinburgh
University of Edinburgh
Due to Graduate June 2012

Sainsbury Undergraduate Studentship (2010-2011)

Vacation Research – Phylogeographic analysis of *Araucaria scopulorum*.
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Supervisor – Dr Pete Hollingsworth
Mentor – Professor Andrew Hudson

Summary of Vacation Project

New Caledonia, an island of the South West Pacific, is a botanical biodiversity hotspot, with a mosaic of soil types, a range of elevations and climatic variation. *Araucaria scopulorum* is an endangered conifer, endemic to the island, which has scattered populations with highly variable geographic proximity to each other. Making use of 10 years of data, GIF resources and next generation sequencing, this work will explore the relationship between geographical and genetic distances. Questions such as why some areas appear to be more important for diversity than others, and over what scales do species diversify, will be addressed.
