**Ryan Thompson**

R.thompson12@newcastle.ac.uk

|  |
| --- |
| A person with blonde hair  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**Why did you choose to study with the ONEPlanet DTP? What are you researching?** I chose to study with ONEPlanet as its aims aligned with my own research aims and thus seemed a good fit. Additionally, as I have previously been an undergraduate student at Newcastle University I am familiar with the academic staff and facilities which should make my project run a bit smoother.I am researching the use of rare soil Actinobacteira and their respective plant hosts to bioremediate soil in terms of heavy metal, salinity and pollutant reduction while improving the soil structure and nutrient content. |
| **What do you think are the key benefits of your postgraduate study?**To myself personally postgraduate study will help me develop skills in a range of key areas and build connections within the scientific community which will help me further in my career. Aside from this my project could result in the development and production of commercial products to tackle soil pollution and allow me to publish a number of papers to build my scientific credentials. |
| **How will your current research/study help you achieve your career ambitions?**As stated earlier, postgraduate study will present myself the opportunity to develop a range of key skills further widening my skill set. In addition, my project may allow the publishing of a number of papers to help develop my credentials within the scientific community. |
| **What impact will your current research achieve?**My researches main will aim to reduce the polluting effects of anthropogenic activities upon the soil as this pollution has direct effects upon the food we consume and in turn us. In addition, soil pollution can lead to pollution of water bodies, resulting in further negative effects upon humans and the surrounding ecosystem, as we rely upon these water sources. Thus, my research could result in better food quality, agricultural yield and improved water quality. Additionally, as I aim to bioremediate land this may increase the total volume of arable land upon earth, in turn helping to somewhat improve global food security. Aside from the impacts upon agriculture my project will involve the use of plants as well as soil bacteria and therefore these plants could be planted upon marginalized lands to act as carbon sinks, helping to somewhat reduce the effects of climate change. |
| **What have you enjoyed most about being a student in Newcastle/Northumbria?**So far for my postgraduate study I have enjoyed getting into the specifics of my project planning and reading the necessary background information. |
| **Can you recommend three ‘top tips’ (pieces of advice) to share with new students?**1. Buy an academic planner/diary as soon as possible to keep track of all the different events you have to attend.
2. Read as much literature about your subject as possible to get a good background on the specific subject area.
3. Set aside personal time away from work to maintain a healthy work-life balance.
 |
| **What is your best memory of your time here so far?** As I am a first year student and have only recently started this limits the options I have to choose from somewhat. So far I would say being accepted onto the DTP and meeting my supervisory team has been fantastic. |