

Rebecca Fishburn TPP

Rebecca Fishburn, TPS Bursary winner of 2012 for her paper *Reaching the target audience: how can we encourage increased mode shift if our travel surveys are biased towards those already using smarter modes?* has been awarded the TPP.

Responding to the award, Rebecca explained she didn't *'really know what transport planning was when I applied for the Graduate Development Programme with Atkins. Towards the end of my degree (a masters degree in Mathematics at the University of Leeds) I completed a few career questionnaires and transport planning was one of the suggested careers as it combined my interests in sustainability with my strong analytical skills. Nearly seven years on from joining Atkins as a graduate, I can safely say that pursuing a career in transport was the right choice. Over the course of my career to date, I have been able to work on a wide range of projects and in a variety of locations'*.



In recent years Rebecca has become more involved with the Transport Planning Society and the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) and says she *'can already see the benefit of doing so. The preparation of my TPS Bursary paper was a great experience that I would recommend to anyone; you are assigned a mentor who helps to guide you through the process of producing a technical paper. I went on to present a further paper at the Transport Practitioners' Meeting in 2013. While you don't have to write technical papers for your TPP submission, I enjoyed the experience and it certainly helped me to improve my writing and presentation skills, both of which are essential for the TPP'*.

She is pleased to have achieved TPP, having started with minimal knowledge of transport, and now,

'seven years down the line, being able to demonstrate that I have the knowledge, skills and experience expected of a transport professional. The TPP qualification is gaining momentum and provides transport planners with something to aim for that is suited to our experience and skills. There are other professional qualifications available but I felt that TPP would help develop me most as a transport planner. Some of the objectives were challenging, but Atkins was very supportive in ensuring that I was able to get the right project experience. With the structured TPS Professional Development Scheme now in place, graduates have access to plenty of support in working towards TPP. I will definitely be encouraging junior (and senior!) members of staff to gain TPP'.