

I am a Geographer ...



Christian Collings

Operations Manager at Minnovare

I studied Geography in high school in the UK and then Geography and Geology in college. Following this, I went to the University of Portsmouth and studied Earth Sciences, including Geology, Geography, Oceanography and environmental systems. My schooling and university experiences included study travels across Britain, France, Spain, Cyprus and Brazil.

When I was younger, I was always fascinated by human Geography – the people of the world and the countries and cultures they define. Through this, my interest in Geography was always there – I even think it was one of my best subjects in school. From this initial interest, I then became more and more drawn to physical Geography. I was particularly interested in geomorphology and palaeogeography – the way the Earth is made is incredibly interesting to learn about. This naturally led to my decision to study Earth Sciences at university.

Minnovare is a multinational technology company involved in drilling operations in mining and civil engineering projects. As operations manager, my role typically encompasses three primary areas of focus: resource management, problem solving and team management. Resource management involves me ensuring that our company has the physical resources (equipment and personnel) to deliver our high-end products to the demands of the industry. The industry moves fast, and

decisions and directions change quickly. With changing direction comes inherent problems and the need to think quickly to solve them. Team management requires working to get the best people for the required jobs and working to have a happy, engaged and committed group, thereby ensuring that our customers get the best from our company.

Being from a mining background gives me an insight into how operations and people run differently in mining compared to other industries. Having a technical foundation has also enabled me to understand the concepts which relate to the company's advanced products and systems. I work predominantly with engineers and also closely with geologists and environmental engineers.

Following a similar career path to mine opens up a host of career paths in mining-related or servicing industries. Having experience in a technical role and onsite in mining means that your knowledge will be valued by others, including consultancy and service firms, as well as other mining organisations. The industry is constantly changing and relying more and more on experienced professionals and technology. With this lies the opportunity for someone who stems from a technical or geographical background to make an impact, influence decision-makers or even be the decision-maker.