



Adam Khalaf

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Describe your overall duties/responsibilities as an Environmental Engineer:

As an engineer at an environmental engineering consulting firm, I get to work on a wide variety of projects all across the country. My time is split between environmental remediation projects, ecological conservation/restoration work, and water resource engineering projects. The remediation work involves reviewing engineering reports, analyzing lab data, and project management support related to cleanup of sites with hazardous chemical contamination. The ecological work includes things like conducting wildlife surveys, habitat assessments, wetland delineations, and stream restoration projects. My job also provides lots of opportunities to travel and do field work. Every day is something new.

Explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:

Consulting requires an interesting mix of technical and personal skills. A strong technical base in engineering and science is important, but so are strong communication and writing skills, the ability to work in interdisciplinary teams,

and paying attention to detail. Things can change quickly in consulting work, so it's also really important to be adaptable and willing to try new things.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering?

This field can take you in a number of different directions, so be proactive about pursuing your interests. Take a variety of different classes and keep an open mind about taking on new opportunities. It's also important to seek out internships or research experience to help you learn about possible future careers and develop marketable technical skills. I would also encourage students to make an effort to get to know the faculty and staff in the department. In my experience, everyone is approachable, supportive, and always willing to help. Definitely invest in those relationships.

