

Making geosciences a place of belonging for all

Detailed video transcription

Visual: the Earth spinning in space

Voiceover: Geoscientists make a real difference to our planet.

Visual: Two people sitting on a sofa watching TV, with geoscience-related news stories onscreen.

Voiceover: They work to address many key challenges we see in the news every day, including climate change, sustainability and natural hazards.

Visual: A classroom with children learning about rocks. Text on screen: under-representation in geosciences occurs on the basis of factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability and class background.

Voiceover: But many groups in our society are underrepresented in geosciences at all levels, from school through to senior professionals

Visual: A university lecture

Visual: Two professional geoscientists in hard hats and high-vis vests examining data

Voiceover: And that means their perspectives are not heard.

Visual: Classroom with four students from a range of ethnicities, one in a wheelchair, sitting round a table and a facilitator in the background.

Voiceover: We asked current and recent geoscience undergraduates from underrepresented groups to tell us about their experiences and how things could be better. Here are some of the things they said.

Visual: A series of quotes appearing on a sheet of paper. Quote: I feel like I don't belong. Quote: I think it's just such a shame that we have such low diversity ... you feel really lonely and you can't relate. Quote: I've never not felt like a geographer, but I've always felt other because of being non-white.

Visual: Wheelchair-user in a hijab confronted by a flight of stairs with no ramp. Thought bubble: There are structural barriers.

Visual: Text written on a blackboard. Quote: I didn't have enough fieldwork experience, but for most of the fieldwork you have to pay, and as someone from the working class, I can't afford that.

Visual: Students sitting around a table with one student alone at a different table thinking “I don’t have anyone to discuss these issues with”

Visual: Text appearing on a whiteboard. Quote: I enjoyed my source and I had a good friendship group [but] I was the only queer person in the year so there weren’t any contemporaries I could look to to discuss those issues

Visual: The students from the workshop outside a university, with the facilitator asking “What can we do to make things better?”

Voiceover: What can we do to make things better?

Visual: Text appearing on paper. Quote: Organising events for people with speakers from underrepresented groups would make us feel more represented in this sector. We don’t see ourselves in the university and in lectures. Quote: Develop a culture of asking. It’s not a negative thing to ask about somebody. I know that if anyone asks me about my background or my culture [or how to pronounce my name] I’m happy to speak about it, rather than them making assumptions about me. Quote: It’s important for universities to put things in place after they’ve included people to make sure and encourage them to feel like they belong and are accepted. Quote: I would really love for universities to act on any results that were collected from the workshop. If these bodies just say they’re inclusive and don’t act on it then it’s just seen as performative.

Visual: The students from the workshop on a field trip looking at a rock face, with the facilitator in the background. All are wearing hard hats and high vis vests.

Voiceover: Universities and teaching teams can make change happen. For more recommendations, check out our website.

Visual: Text on screen: for the full report with all recommendations, visit geoaccess.org.uk.

Text on screen: Our workshops included 36 current or recent students from 18 universities who studied human and physical geography, geology, geochemistry and environmental science.

Visual: Workshop scene from before.

Text on screen: Black, Asian, minoritised ethnic and/or religious backgrounds, students with disabilities, international students, first in family to go to university, non-traditional educational backgrounds, low-income backgrounds, LGBTQIA+

Visual: logos of the Natural Environment Research Council, Changemakers Unltd and the University of Huddersfield.

Text on screen: This project was funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and conducted by the University of Huddersfield and Changemakers Unltd.

Text on screen: Thanks to our participants Adwoa, Akua Adu-Poku, Alfie Mackie, Alicia Brooks, Archie Bunney, Archie Mitchell, Awais H, Beth Osborne, Chloe C, Chris C, Ella, Francisca Rockey (co-facilitator), Gabriele Radzeviciute, Hina, Jess, Katie Underwood, Khushi Himatlal, Kiranjot Matharu, Lydia Stainer, Marial, Marjaan Chowdhury, Mirza Jamal Begg, ML, Nawal Sohail, Noah, Reuben, Shovi Anjum, Sofia, Student, Vaishali Phippen, Victoria Ayodeji (co-facilitator), Yahya Sayed and four anonymous participants