

# Fieldwork and Interdisciplinarity

Interdisciplinarity allows students to concentrate on the holistic view; the issues and problems rather than the subject concepts and teaching.

(Schmelzkopf, 2002)

# Fieldwork: Student Feedback

**Why do students consider fieldwork useful/attractive?**

Data collected from 330 students from 26 European countries.

Students were asked:

- ▶ How important is fieldwork to your studies?  
Why?
- ▶ How does fieldwork help your learning?
- ▶ What skills do you gain from fieldwork?

# Fieldwork: Academic Feedback

**Academic opinion: Advantages of having fieldwork in their teaching.**

Data collected from 68 academics from 26 European countries.

Academics were asked:

- ▶ How important is fieldwork to Physical/ Human Geography?
- ▶ Are there any areas of Geography you find impossible to teach by text books and class work alone?
- ▶ How essential is Fieldwork to the making of a good Geographer? Why?

# Questions

- ▶ Do you include an element of career awareness in your teaching?
- ▶ Is skill acquisition and employability embedded in your fieldwork curriculum? How?
- ▶ Should fieldwork teaching include an element of work based learning? Is it practical to do this?
- ▶ Should we be training students for the workplace, is this our role?
- ▶ If newly qualified teachers place little importance on fieldwork where will it leave our future Geographers?
- ▶ If students are not recognising what we as teachers want them to gain from fieldwork, what does it say about the overall experience we provide them with?

**OVER TO YOU.....**