**Sustainability Student Placement**

**Job description:**

You will spend 24 weeks (or pro-rata equivalent if part-time) with our Sustainability team at the University of Kent with responsibilities in all aspects of delivering our sustainability commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals Education Accord so the opportunity to make an impact is huge. This is your chance to play a part in developing solutions to some of our most significant sustainability challenges.

You will be responsible for delivering and enhancing our staff and student engagement and communications and taking the lead on planning and delivering sustainability events on campus. As well as these core elements, you will be able to choose projects and initiatives to get involved with from those detailed below to ensure that your placements provides you with the key skills and experience relevant to your field of study, personal values and future career goals.

This is an exciting and dynamic placement, day-to-day you could be researching and writing case studies and guidance notes or reports based on projects or best practice, supporting awareness activities, collecting and analysing data, developing communications materials or engaging with staff and students across the university on sustainability related activities. You could be desk-based or out and about on campus collecting information, carrying out your own surveys or leading guided walks.

Core Duties

* Running our sustainability social media channels (twitter, instagram)
* Writing regular articles for internal staff and student newsletters and our sustainability blog and a regular sustainability newsletter for our staff sustainability champions network
* Creating and maintaining an annual sustainability events calendar and proactively planning communication focused on national and international sustainability awareness days and other events
* Running sustainability events on campus
* Collecting and collating data and information from across the University for internal and external reporting on sustainability.

Optional Projects:

Campus Ecology and Biodiversity

You will be responsible for collating survey data from the Sustainability Team, Estates Projects Team and DICE to build a picture of biodiversity on our campuses and identifying where the gaps lie. You will investigate what accessible tools are available to record and map campus biodiversity and support the creation of educational resources. You will also support other biodiversity activities as directed by the sustainability team.

Green Spaces for Amenity, Health and Wellbeing

You will help create and deliver nature trails across the campuses and build up a resource bank of ecological and historical narratives about the campus trails. You will support the creation of an education marketing campaign about the benefits of the campus green spaces for health, exercise and wellbeing that is aimed at students, staff and visitors to the university.

Curriculum Sustainability

You will work with staff, student groups and academic schools to identify good practice of sustainability in the curriculum and identify opportunities to further embed teaching and learning related to sustainability. You will identify opportunities for students to conduct research which addresses real-life campus sustainability challenges and showcase these projects.

Environmental Management

You will support and help to deliver the University’s Environmental Management System certified to ISO14001. You will be involved with environmental audits of University buildings and operations, processing of environmental performance data and writing reports. You will also contribute towards elements of the management systems such as the maintenance of the legal resister and register of significant environmental aspects.

Operational Sustainability

You'll be helping to deliver, enhance and promote environmental management and sustainability activity at the University of Kent through designing and implementing projects and initiatives across our campuses at Canterbury and Medway. You will have the opportunity to learn from and develop projects with our operational leads in the following areas;

* Energy, Carbon and Water
* Waste, recycling and resource management
* Sustainable Procurement
* Landscape and Biodiversity Management
* Sustainable Transport

Sustainable Food

You will be working with staff from the University and Kent Union catering outlets to deliver, enhance and promote our sustainable food strategy and to implement projects and run engaging campaigns to encourage sustainable food choices. In addition you will be working to reduce food waste from our campus accommodation through educational campaigns and initiatives.

Kent Community Oasis Garden

You will work with the Kent Community Oasis Garden Coordinator and Sustainability Coordinator to develop engagement and communications at the community garden and support and deliver student focused sustainability workshops at the garden for volunteers.

**What we are looking for:**

You have strong written and verbal communication skills and are able to influence others in the decision-making process.

You have strong project management skills and attention to detail and you're great at organising tasks, events and people.

You're competent in using IT applications, working with and analysing data, developing communications materials.

You'll have knowledge of and a passion for sustainability issues, for example environmental management, biodiversity, climate change, energy and carbon and ESD

**Qualifications:**

You must be in your placement year and be on course to achieve at least a 2:2.

Accepted degree subjects\* - Environmental social science, Wildlife Conservation

\* Candidates from other degree subjects may be considered if they are able to provide sufficient evidence to support their application

**How to Apply:**

Students interested in this placement should email the sustainability manager, Catherine Morris at c.morris@kent.ac.uk. Applicants should submit a cover letter detailing their interest in the role, particular areas they would like to focus on and any additional skills they feel they could bring to the role. If invited for interview, applicants will be asked to prepare a short (<5min) presentation on a topic chosen by the sustainability team.

References from previous employers and/or your academic advisor will be requested.