

Case Study

Sustainability Student Internship Program

Four internship positions with the Sustainability Team were made available to students completing a University internship subject in semester 2, 2020. The opportunities were designed to give students a meaningful experience in a professional setting, while ensuring their contributions to sustainability projects had a positive, tangible impact on University operations. After this successful trial, the Student Sustainability Internship Program was continued into the 2021 summer term and semester 1, 2021.

During semester 2 2020 and semester 1 2021, a total of 15 students from a diverse range of courses including the Bachelor of Science, Master of Environment, Master of Environmental Science, Master of Landscape Architecture, Master of Spatial Engineering, Master of Marketing Communications and Master of Management (Marketing) completed an internship. All students received course credit for their contributions through a University-endorsed subject.

Internships have supported the implementation and continuous improvement of sustainability-based projects and initiatives across the operational areas of waste, biodiversity, transport, engagement, communications, and energy. Linking teaching and learning with University operations not only contributes to students' overall tertiary experience but allows the University to hear students' feedback and ideas in a collaborative setting.

Staff Testimonials

“Being able to contribute to the education of our students is absolutely invaluable, and something that was in high demand from students for a long time. We saw an opportunity to support students in their desire for professional work experience, while providing a link between their academic studies and solutions to real world challenges faced through running a sustainable campus. It also allows us to harness the creative and aspirational nature of students who bring such welcomed diversity to our team.”

Sue Hopkins | Manager-Environmental Sustainability, Campus Management



Image

Sustainability student interns.

Student Testimonials

“The internship allowed me to work collaboratively with people of different expertise, which has helped me expand my knowledge beyond design and into plants and ecosystems. Working on the Tree Canopy Cover project helped me improve my critical thinking skills as a landscape architect and enhanced my understanding of sustainable practices. I gained valuable practical skills in surveying, mapping, data analysis, and report writing and am so grateful that the friendly team was always happy to provide me with support and guidance, making me more confident and prepared for entering the workplace.”

Cherry Lai, Master of Landscape Architecture – Biodiversity Intern in the 2021 summer semester

“Coming into the internship at the beginning of the Master of Environment helped me clarify future career path and outlined my strengths and weaknesses as a professional. Working on implementing the System Garden Composting Program was the highlight of my internship as I was able to apply my project management and stakeholder engagement skills while experiencing the reality of introducing a new resource recovery program. I had the opportunity to work on multiple projects within the team and with other departments, which gave me the chance to step outside my comfort zone. I gained so much knowledge and experience in the short time I spent there and created friendships that extended outside of the internship.”

Hariz Ahmad, Master of Environment – Waste Minimisation Intern in the 2021 summer semester