



UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man and University College Isle of Man Undergraduate Sustainability Student Placement Scheme

Dear Biosphere Businesses

Would you be interested in offering a placement to a University College Isle of Man (UCM) student in spring 2023 so they could assist your business to become more sustainable?

Under its strategy '[Working Together for a Sustainable Future](#)', UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man aims to 'encourage learning about, and adoption of, more sustainable ways of living' and 'be a catalyst for good decision-making and innovative solution-finding'.

UCM degree courses run in conjunction with the University of Chester include the requirement for a student to undertake a five-week unpaid work placement in April and May.

In 2023, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man and UCM are again collaborating to offer Biosphere businesses the chance to participate in our Sustainability Student Placement Scheme.

How your organisation would benefit from hosting a student:

As a Biosphere business, you are already committed to playing your part in a sustainable future, but you may lack the time and/or expertise to develop further in this area. A student would work with you over five weeks, on an agreed project(s), bringing fresh ideas and impetus. While placement students will be undertaking a wide variety of degree subjects, many have a keen interest in sustainability, a subject embedded in UCM learning. Their area of study usually influences what they can offer your organisation: from IT projects to business analysis, policy or literature review, developing a sustainability strategy and getting staff engagement. You would be supporting a local undergraduate in developing valuable skills in the workplace and further demonstrating your support for UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man. If students continue their study to a higher level, they may be willing to return to your business a second time.

How a student would benefit from a work placement with your business:

Whatever degree subject they are studying, students undertake work placements to develop skills in consultancy, research, communication, enterprise, team work, facilitation, etc. They also gain 'real work' experience and, hopefully, confidence.

How does our UNESCO Biosphere benefit from this scheme?

The UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme is keen young people are involved in delivering its core global functions of sustainable development, conservation and learning and that the citizens of the future are heard.

What would your business need to offer?

Students would benefit from an induction into your business, prior to or upon joining you. It would be mandatory for you to offer a health and safety briefing. Students would work at your premises or virtually or a combination of both, depending on your requirements. A nominated member of your staff will negotiate the agreed project(s) and then support the student as necessary during the five weeks. A short appraisal questionnaire is typically required at the completion of the placement.

Cost of getting involved in the scheme:

Free.

Dates of placements:

Placements would usually commence on Monday 24th April 2023 for five weeks. There may be an opportunity to negotiate exact dates.

Contact for more information/to register an interest:

Gail Corrin, UCM Higher Education Manager - gail.corrin@ucm.ac.im
If possible please include a brief summary of the project(s) you have in mind.
Please advise that you are a Partner of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man.

Deadline to respond:

Tuesday 31st January 2023.

What will happen after you register?

You will be contacted by UCM to discuss any interested undergraduate students and confirm dates and complete (small amount) of paperwork.

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man will seek to feature a number of participating businesses in their publicity. UCM will therefore share details of businesses registered with the Biosphere office and you may be contacted.

Student testimonials from 2022:

Lorien Russouw:

I'm on a BA Business Management degree course. In the second year we completed a module called work-based learning. My placement was as a Sustainability Officer for the Kensington Arts Centre, which is a UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man partner. It was required to investigate where the Centre was at the start of my placement in terms of sustainability and find what could be improved upon to make the Centre more sustainable in the future. At the end of my placement, I created a sustainability report for the Centre which provided facts, information and recommendations for future sustainability improvements. I honed my research skills, interacted with different people and businesses to collect information, and problem solved. The Centre allowed me to work from home and had twice weekly checks with a supervisor, giving me a sense of autonomy allowing me to manage myself and my time on my own. I feel sustainability is an important initiative necessary for all businesses, households and governments. My interest in sustainability was reciprocated in Kensington Arts, and this allowed me to flourish and learn more about business sustainability in a professional environment and the challenges businesses may face when moving to become more sustainable. I learned valuable skills that would help me within my course while having a great and memorable experience.

Angelina Dimitriou:

I am pursuing a degree in business management at UCM. As a final-year student, I am very excited about what lies ahead! It was a pleasure to work with the Villa Gaiety. In choosing to be part of the Villa Gaiety team for five weeks, I was attracted to their belief in making a difference, which was aligned with mine. For me, working for an organisation that implements change and sustainability in its operations is admirable and important, and that was one of the big reasons I chose to work for Villa Gaiety. Working there taught me independence in terms of my work, I appreciated the friendly work environment, and I gained a deeper understanding of teamwork. Moreover, I gained some leadership and time management skills since I had to produce a report and a solution for Villa Gaiety in order to make a change. As a result of this experience, I have gained more confidence about my future endeavours in business, became more analytical, and produced reports in a more professional manner rather than an academic one. The Villa Gaiety has been an excellent experience, and I have developed skills that will positively influence my employability once I am finished with my degree.

Personal data:

The Department of Education, Sport and Culture is the controller but will share your business's name, contact person and email address with UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, part of the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, for the purpose of the joint administration and promotion of the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man and University College Isle of Man Undergraduate Sustainability Student Placement Scheme.