



STUDENTS
ORGANISING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM

SOS-UK Internship Experience

Alessia undertook a remote internship with SOS-UK for 6 weeks during the spring term of 2020. This contributed to Alessia's MSc in Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey. Alessia shares how she contributed to the work of SOS-UK during this time.

Background of internship

The SOS-UK project that concerned my internship regarded the [Global Goals Teach In pledge](#). A campaign that aims at placing the Global Goals for Sustainable Development at the heart of education and catalyse the change needed to make this happen. From a survey, which the lecturers undertook during the Global Goals Week, my task was to select 17 'best' quotes which the academics provided, that highlighted the importance of including the SDGs into their course, and **create a case study report**. Moreover, in conjunction with the report I **was in charge of developing a social media communications campaign** to promote the quotes from the SDG Teach In and to share the amazing results of the pledge. I also **had the opportunity to publicly speak about the project in a remote conference** and to start **working on a report** about the best practice of including the three unique self defining criteria for the [Responsible Futures](#) audit.

Motivations and experience

I was particularly interested in the Teach In 2020 campaign as I am personally fascinated about education for sustainability and, from what I learnt at University about the SDGs, I wanted to explore more about how the goals can be embedded into teaching. My personal goal was to gain experience in the sustainability sector, to research and communicate about ESD. Overall, I was very pleased with my internship experience at SOS-UK. **Not only did I have the ability to gain more knowledge about the sustainability projects in the education field, but I was also able to improve my skills. SOS-UK has been very active since the start of my internship to develop a project that aimed at expanding on the skills I personally wanted to improve such as researching, communicating and public speaking.** I was enthusiastic to improve all the skills and to gain much knowledge on the organisation and the projects and campaigns for education for sustainability. I feel that all my expectations were met and that the SOS-UK engaging and supportive working environment made my experience not only enriching but also fun.

Looking to the future

I personally think that **this opportunity has endorsed me with skills I wanted to gain for my academic and professional curriculum.** I actively applied for a role at SOS-UK because I wanted to gain experience in the field of sustainability for education and I believe that having worked on this project will improve my chances of getting a job when leaving university. However, I would be enthusiastic to carry on volunteering with the project and SOS-UK in the future, not only because I had a fantastic experience but because I believe in the values and sustainability projects they offer. I would highly encourage students both in higher and further education to get involved with the projects SOS-UK offers, for their employability and interpersonal skills which they provide. I believe that engaging in sustainability focused projects enables individuals to gain the knowledge and skills needed to face the global challenges of our planet.