

Meet a... Energy and Sustainability Placement Student



Adam Caspi, Energy and Sustainability Placement Student at Sheffield Hallam University

How would you describe your job in a tweet i.e.140 characters?

Engaging and teaching staff and students to embed sustainability in everyday life and raise awareness of its importance.

What does an average day look like?

There isn't really an average day but I mostly work from the office, regularly working with staff around the University from such a diverse range of careers. I'm also currently running our Sustainability communications, working very closely with the Estates Communications Manager, meaning I regularly put all of our upcoming events/initiatives into newsletters for our 100-strong network of Green Champions and other networks. I also help as much as possible in our energy management systems, regularly running energy analytics to ensure we're being as efficient as possible.

What are the key skills and qualifications required for your job?

I was required to be undertaking a relevant degree, which I'm currently studying BEng Energy Engineering, so I'm more suited to the energy side of the job but it's definitely useful (and interesting!) to be learning so much about Sustainability too. As I'm very interested in energy, I regularly read on upcoming renewable technologies to see whether any of these would be suitable for our campuses.

What training and continuous professional development do you require?

I regularly volunteer for any CPD sessions coming up so I can broaden my knowledge and take advantage of these opportunities as much as possible.

What are your top three responsibilities?

- Ensuring staff & students are kept up to date with our events and initiatives through communications.
- Ensuring the regular flow of energy data and looking out for any energy saving opportunities.
- Being available to help anyone around the University with any issues regarding energy and/or sustainability.

Tell us something surprising about your job that people may not know about?

Without the work our team do, we wouldn't be legally compliant!



To help our Members understand more about the roles in further and higher education institutions, we've created a suite of career profiles. These share the main responsibilities and skills and knowledge required of many of the key roles that play a part in embedding sustainability in a tertiary education institution.

View the entire suite at www.eauc.org.uk/meet_a_member





What are the positives and negatives of the job?

Student engagement is one of the hardest tasks I can think of in regards to sustainability. But we love a challenge! Also, the lack of budget means we can't always implement all of the fantastic energy saving technologies available onto any new builds or refurbishments.

Do you manage a budget, and what are your key priorities for this?

No.

What does the path to career progression in this role look like?

As it is a work placement, the progression for my role is incredibly varied. I'm still unsure of what I would like to do once I graduate, but this role has given me some crucial experience into just how diverse energy & sustainability can be. I am currently thinking about becoming an energy consultant for businesses around the UK but who knows what future has in store for me!

What is the minimum and maximum salary band for this role?

The role I have has a set wage for placement students (roughly £13,500), but the wage is just an added bonus after all the experience I've gained!

What advice do you have for graduates and other potential candidates who are considering joining?

Take as many of the training opportunities available to you as possible and broaden your knowledge!

For institutions without a Energy and Sustainability Placement Student – what 3 aspects of your role do you think are the most important for any institution's sustainability journey?

I think the most crucial aspect is the communication with staff around the University as well as students to raise awareness of the work we are doing. As it is such a large organisation, it's sometimes tough to keep everyone up to date with what's going on around the University, so it's good to have a role like mine in which communication is a primary role - useful for a potential engineer like me!

What department do you and your line manager sit in? Which departmental interactions are vital for your role?

My line manager and I work in the Estates department but I have worked with so many different departments around the University, including the Students' Union which is vital for reaching the students. However, we do work quite closely with so many different departments which are all vital in their own ways.

What opportunities and challenges does working in an higher education institution bring?

I think the difficulty of working in a University is due to the huge numbers of students continuously joining and leaving the institution that you only have a relatively short window of time to engage as many students as you can before they finish, and then start again with new students. However, this also means that you have a diverse range of students to help contribute to the work we do with their ideas.

How do you communicate the outputs of your role to the wider institution, and what does this include?

We have a number of methods of communication to a number of interested parties/stakeholders both within the University and externally. For example, we have newsletters which I write monthly to our network of Green Champions within the University and also, we have 2 social media sites dedicated to Sustainability (which I manage) for anyone interested in the work we do.

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How has EAUC Membership helped you in your job and within your institution?

I find the EAUC newsletters very interesting and informative and can often be the first place I hear about important changes that affect my work or learn new tips. Also, just having the resources available when you need them is incredibly useful.

How can other Members contact you?

- Email: Environment@shu.ac.uk
- Telephone: 0114 225 3247
- Website: www.shu.ac.uk/university/overview/sustainability
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/PassItOnSHU
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