

UCD Smurfit Masters in Renewable Energy and Environmental Finance – Interns available Summer 2021

Interns available

Masters students doing the MSc [Masters in Renewable Energy and Environmental Finance](#) in UCD Smurfit are available for internships for Summer 2021 for a minimum 8-week period, that should commence between 8 June 2021 and 5 July 2021. The course covers the theory and its practical application in both renewable energy finance and sustainable finance more broadly. Students on this course come highly recommended in terms of their sustainable finance and renewable energy finance knowledge.

What have these students covered in their course?

For students to be accepted onto the course, they have to have displayed academic prowess and will have been required to display leadership, communication and teamwork experience on their application. These skills have been developed throughout their MSc, through the different methods of assessment and even more so given the remote nature of this pandemic influenced academic year. Students sit a number of mainstream finance modules throughout the course, giving them a broad overview and practical quantitative and analytic skills, similar to the MSc in Finance. What sets these students apart is a number of key modules, taught by industry leading professionals.

For banks, the investment sector and insurance companies, the **Environmental Finance and Impact Investing** module is taught by Laura Heuston (co-founder of SustainabilityWorks). Building on what students have already covered in mainstream finance modules, the course covers a broad range of sustainable finance topics, with a number of guest lectures offering further practical and professional insights. An understanding of sustainability and ESG is the bedrock of the module, with responsible banking, responsible investing, impact investing, sustainable insurance and the non-financial corporate reporting standards all covered. After this module, graduates will have a wealth of knowledge on EU and national sustainable finance policy and regulatory developments, and most importantly perhaps, they are comfortable discussing ESG across banking, investment and insurance.

Of particular relevance for companies in the renewable energy sector is the module on **Renewable Energy Finance** is taught by Barry Gavin (former CEO of Gaelectric). This course gives graduates an opportunity to learn about renewable energy projects, from green-field sites all the way through construction to completion and decommissioning. Financial modelling is explored and a mock investment pitch is presented to a mock investment committee regarding the purchase of a renewable project. This gives students a real-life scenario to develop and apply their knowledge learnt throughout the module. Furthermore, the evolving landscape and various policy mechanisms at play currently in Ireland are discussed, including RESS, PPAs, CPPAs and the role of institutional investors. These students have a great grounding in the topic and would be able to hit the ground running in any renewable energy organisation. Other specific sustainable finance-related courses include:

- **Green data science** – Dr Tiffany Thng
- **Energy economics and policy** – Dr Lisa Ryan

Who to contact?

If any organisation is seeking an intern, please contact Megan O’Neil at the UCD Careers Network Blackrock – megan.oneil@ucd.ie – who can provide further details and ensure the opportunity is circulated to the class. Please also copy barry.gavin@ucd.ie and laura.heuston@ucd.ie, as relevant, so we know of the opportunities coming their way and can discuss same with the class.

FAQ

Is payment expected for the internship? Generally yes. The standard graduate salary in the host organisation would be expected. However students do also take unpaid positions and so it is worthwhile advertising the opportunity even if there is no payment involved.

Will the students be finished or mid-way through their course? The internship will be the final element of their course and they should graduate once the 8-week period has been completed.

When can they start? To qualify as part of their course, the internship should be a minimum of 8 weeks and should commence between 8 June 2021 and 5 July 2021.

Are students available for a longer period than 8 weeks? Many will be looking for full time jobs as they will be undertaking the internship as the final part of their course.

Can you provide any further details on the rest of the course content? Yes – please see full details [here](#).