



Queen's University Belfast Employability

The Environmental Leadership Programme



Profile

- Higher Education
- 24,000 students (includes full and part time students)
- 3700 staff
- Urban

Summary

Students have a key role to play in helping reduce Queen's University's environmental impact. By joining our 'Environmental Leadership Programme' Queen's students can gain practical experience in environmental management and improve their employability prospects, all whilst playing a key role in helping the University achieve its low carbon vision. Participating students will have the opportunity to develop their skills in project management, teamwork and communication and will be well placed to become a future environmental champion in their chosen field.



What is it?

The 60 hour programme which runs across the academic year provides a pathway for students with an interest in Sustainable Development, Climate Change or Environmental Management to develop new skills, gain valuable experience and enhance their employability, through a series of training sessions, volunteering activities, seminars and the organisation of environmental awareness events.

The programme is a 'Degree Plus' volunteering option for students at Queen's University Belfast. 'Degree Plus' is a Queen's University method for accrediting the work-related learning and skills our students develop through extracurricular activities which are relevant to graduate job markets. Students who successfully complete the programme receive an award alongside their degree when they graduate.

Project partners

The programme is currently delivered by the University's Estates Environmental team and is supported by the Careers, Employability & Skills section of the Directorate of Academic Affairs.



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Finalist's case study



Why did we create the Programme?

The Environmental Leadership Programme was created to further engage and encourage student participation with our sustainability initiatives whilst simultaneously recognizing and rewarding the efforts of those students who dedicate their time towards making a positive difference at the University.

What are the aims of the Programme?

The programme aims to nurture our student's passions for environmental sustainability and equip them with the skills and experiences required to enable them to become a future environmental champion in their chosen field. We envisage that the students who complete the programme will go on to promote and encourage sustainability in their future careers.

What does the programme involve?

The Environmental Leadership Programme builds upon the University's commitment to reducing our Carbon emissions and links closely with the Green Impact Scheme. Students completing the Environmental Leadership Programme will take on the role of a Green Impact Project Assistant and provide support to staff participating in Green Impact. They will also attend a series of training workshops, skills development sessions and volunteering activities as well as assist in the promotion and facilitation of the University's dedicated 'Recycling Week' and 'Green Week'.

The final stages of the Environmental Leadership programme focus on the development of the student's employability skills, with an emphasis on nurturing the student's abilities to communicate their experiences to prospective employers. This is done through the completion of a practice job application and interview process. This simulation allows our students can gain valuable interview experience whilst developing the techniques that play an important role in making them stand out during a selection process.

Top 3 learnings from implementing your project

- 1 Supporting students to run their own events is a great mechanism for encouraging participation.
- 2 Having a diverse range of events throughout the programme helped to keep our students engaged and enthusiastic.
- 3 Challenging students to attend interviews was a great way to further develop key employability skills.

What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

Queen's University Belfast is delighted to be shortlisted for this prestigious Green Gown Award which recognises our ongoing commitment to sustainability and the vital role our Environmental Leadership Programme plays in enhancing the employability skills of our students.

Further information

For more information on our Environmental Leadership Programme and Degree Plus here at Queen's please visit [here](#).
For further queries you can contact the University's Environmental team at: carbonmanagement@qub.ac.uk.

www.green gownawards.org.uk

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