

I was able to participate in the Eden Centre's Education for Sustainability internship as an undergraduate as part of the AN256 Economic Anthropology (I): Production and Exchange cohort, and the experience has been thoroughly rewarding. Taking part in the internship allowed me to reconcile the two disciplines in my degree (anthropology and law), and use a scholarly approach to find connections between the two as well as drawing upon my own past experience as a researcher of international environmental law- it offered a unique opportunity to combine my own interests with my degree and produce research that could influence the curriculum, and I would recommend that any interested students apply in the future if they got the opportunity to!

My research primarily concerned the intersection between law, economics and environmental sustainability, as well as how to approach the issue of degrowth in relation to the law- I was able to research things such as how the legal industry has commoditised law under capitalism, the efficacy of the Sustainable Development Goals and whether they aided in the mission of degrowth, how the Westminster model needs to be changed to give effect to grassroots environmentalist campaigns, and more! Thinking critically about all of these elements, their interactions with the modern day market economy and how solutions could be reached to help implement degrowth strategies realistically presented a really fascinating intellectual challenge and allowed me to practically apply the knowledge I had gained in class to real-world scenarios. The most interesting part of the internship was the ability to draw upon the concepts I had already been learning about in AN256, whilst combining them with concepts from my other modules like AN226 and LL106 as well as my wider knowledge of sustainability movements and strategies, to create one cohesive set of deliverables.

Having worked in research roles before, this opportunity's focus on engaging with the curriculum and producing a lecture that could help to shape the future AN256 curriculum was vastly different from my previous positions involving corporate research or research for governments- it gave real insight into the experience of working as an academic and how module syllabuses are developed in a way I would have never been able to experience otherwise, and collaborating with my professor to understand how to analyse the issues at hand through an anthropological lens has really developed my understanding of the discipline in a way that wouldn't have been possible if I had stuck to only working with anthropological materials as a student writing coursework or studying for exams. I know LSE's motto is to 'know the causes of things' hopefully 'for the betterment of society', and this internship's focus on bringing sustainability into the curriculum does just that. You get to explore the various aspects of sustainability and what it actually is- while I focused on environmental sustainability due to my own interests and expertise, the timeline allowed for enough time to explore all of these matters and settle on what I wanted to cover while expanding my general knowledge on the topic.

This internship was a great experience and I'm glad to have done it, please do take the opportunity if you get the chance!