

Supporting Enterprise – Industry Mentors

Ecosulis

CASE STUDY

Overview

Ecosulis Ltd – a leading ecological consultancy business near Bath – has provided invaluable practical experience, advice and opportunities for an undergraduate in Environmental Science at Bath Spa University through the Industry Mentors Programme.

About the Project

Ecosulis Ltd is an ecological consultancy based near Bath, providing expert ecological advice and technical solutions, all elements of ecological survey and assessment and covering all habitats, species and groups. Ecosulis' ecological consulting services include EcoRisk, management plans and agreements for planning advice, impact assessment and mitigation strategies, site monitoring and management, public inquiry, specialist advice and training, wildlife and protected species survey assessment, Extended Phase I Habitat Surveys and arboriculture consultancy.

Many of Ecosulis' employees are graduates from Bath Spa University and Cain Blythe is keen to continue the links with the University through the Industry Mentors Programme. Cain's areas of professional expertise include ecological survey, assessment and mitigation, business development, company management and finance control. Cain offered to mentor Sabrina Hazelwood - a student from the University's School for Science & Environment.

Sabrina is an Environmental Science undergraduate with experience in many areas of education, management and the voluntary sector. She is seeking a career in coastal management and conservation.

Benefits

As well as enhancing Sabrina's employability prospects and helping to clarify her career direction, this mentoring experience has given an insight into business dynamics and job opportunities, not to mention a valuable contribution to her CV.

As well as practical experience, Ecosulis has been able to put Sabrina in touch with a local academic expert on FungiB for information and tutoring to help her apply the FungiB programme. Cain has also put her in contact with a diatom specialist to aid her research and has helped her with a biodiversity assessment methodology for potential use with her diatom research.

Outcomes

Mentoring has taken the form of corresponding by email, shadowing where possible and meeting regularly, with Cain passing on advice gained through his own experiences, giving informal guidance and access to professional networks.

Fast Facts

- Being mentored by a local ecological consultancy has helped to refine student aspirations to work in coastal management and conservation
- Participating in the Industry Mentors Programme has added another dimension to Ecosulis' ongoing relationship with the University
- Practical experience and understanding the industry will enhance the student's studies and research projects

Sabrina has many opportunities for practical experience. For example, she has been taken out to one of Ecosulis' sites near Bristol to check reptile mats and has travelled to Cambridge with a senior consultant to conduct water vole surveys.

Over the Summer break, Sabrina offered to do some work shadowing with Ecosulis for one day a week from the beginning of July to the end of September. She has also been able to secure two days' voluntary work with the Severn Estuary Partnership in Cardiff.

Perspective

“Sabrina’s proactive approach has ensured that the mentoring process is a positive experience for both parties. Staff of Ecosulis Ltd have really enjoyed working with her and we are glad that she has had the opportunity to gain some insight into the workings of an environmental consultancy. Sabrina’s help on our projects has been really beneficial and it is through mentoring and similar programmes that we hope to meet future employees.”

Cain Blythe
Managing Director
Ecosulis Ltd



“It has been a great experience – they are a really great team of people. I have been able to achieve the key aims of my mentoring agreement with Cain – I’ve developed experience of working with an environmental business, met new contacts and explored different job opportunities. Above all I have received valuable, practical experience, which reinforces the knowledge gained at university.”

Sabrina Hazelwood
Student Mentee
Bath Spa University