

Hannah Lee – MASTS Internship reflections

[March 2022]

Internship role title

Education & Community Engagement Intern: A 3-month Internship working to develop educational resources on climate change and our ocean for primary age students in the UK and BVI while also delivering youth-group talks focused on careers development and an overview of MCS's work.



Shareable outputs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s_1nVHAFbE&ab_channel=MarineConservationSociety

What were you doing before you began your internship?

Fully funded PhD Student (3rd year) - The blue carbon of shellfish beds: storage, water quality, management and societal benefits

Why did you apply to do an internship at The Marine Conservation Society?

I was looking to enhance my portfolio and apply skills I had developed during my PhD to a project management role. I also wanted the opportunity to better understand the process of educating young students and enhancing ocean and climate literacy through this form of engagement and explore a career in science communication and community engagement.

I co-created the internship with my internship line manager, I was very grateful for the funding from MASTS and the Heriot-Watt Mary Burton Fund. Without the support of MCS, MASTS and HWU I would not have been able to undertake this opportunity.

What are some of the responsibilities you had in your internship?

My core responsibility was as project manager for a pilot project. Building from an initial proposal I developed and co-delivered the Crossing the ocean – connecting young voices project. This work connected primary age students in the UK and the British Virgin Islands with the aim of enhancing ocean and climate literacy through live lessons and a pen pal project ending with video interviews. In addition to this I delivered an internal session on blue carbon to MCS staff, ran a youth event focused on MCS core work and careers in conservation.

What experiences or new skills did you gain from your internship?

I developed a better understanding of project management and the framework behind managing a successful engagement project, the development of educational resources a furthered understanding of brand guidelines, as well as having the opportunity to get to know more about the role of communications and fundraising teams in eNGOs. I had the opportunity to lead an educational pilot project from development, to delivery and evaluation. Gaining both tangible experience and making valuable connections with future employers (which I feel has supported me to find full time employment).

What would you advise someone who was thinking about doing an internship?

I think doing an internship can a) allow you to enhance your portfolio, b) give you the opportunity to 'try out' a career, particularly if you are considering a career outside of academia, c) taking an internship in the later stages of your PhD can give students a well needed 'refresh' going into the final PhD stages but also set up contacts for the near future. If an opportunity interests you, take it – and embrace the break