

Industrial Placement with the Environment Agency

Arshi's story

Hello! I'm Arshi and I am currently working at the Environment Agency on an industrial placement. I was born and bred in Nairobi, Kenya, and only moved to London 4 years ago for university. I completed my bachelor's degree in Environmental Geoscience at UCL. Following this I joined the **Summer Development Internship Programme** (SDIP) at the Environment Agency during the summer of 2022, which successfully led me to this industrial placement. For the SDIP, I was in the People team in the Environment and Business directorate for 12 weeks. My primary focus was on a faith and youth career entry project, targeted at individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds. Having support from an officer in my team allowed me to gain a valuable insight on the research carried out, but I was also able to implement my ideas and frame them to achieve short term wins.



I widened my networking and communication skills

I was also fortunate to shadow various team meetings and site visits with the Thames2100 team who work to manage tidal flood risk in the Thames Estuary until the year 2100 and get involved with their team discussions on sustainability and the circular economy. This widened my networking and communication skills as I interacted with colleagues of diverse backgrounds at different levels in the directorate.



Additionally, the support and guidance received by my mentor throughout the 12 weeks was invaluable as it allowed me to go on external site meetings to widen my knowledge base.

My other areas of work include organising and administering career entry schemes and providing support for more inclusive targeted recruitment outreach/attraction. One of the best things about my industrial placement is the people I work with. **All my colleagues are friendly, welcoming and I'm always wanting to learn more from them.** My line manager has allowed me to explore key areas of work that interests me through various training options. I think another important thing I enjoy is that every day is different – be it on a site visit, volunteering at outreach events with students (for example, Skills London) or doing admin for the Buddying Scheme project, it all **keeps me motivated to keep making a difference for people and the environment.**



***Written by Arshi, graduate of SDIP,
graduate industry placement student
and current Project Officer in
Sustainable Business in the
Environment Agency***

“ I am excited to make a great impact in the world of net zero! ”

In April, I will be joining the Sustainable Business Team as a Project Officer. Knowing that I have developed both personally and professionally; the transferrable skills I have gained while being on the People team will be beneficial towards my new role and I am excited to make a great impact in the world of sustainability and net zero!