

ECOTALENT

Are you 18-24 years old?

Do you feel passionately about the environment and/or food?

Do you feel like a job in the environmental sector is less open to you?

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

EcoTalent is an exciting new paid internship programme to bring young voices into the environmental and sustainable food sectors. These internships paid at London living or UK living wage, will provide you with the skills, networks and opportunities to take the first step of your career into the sector.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

EcoTalent placements run for 15 weeks, working a 4 day week at one of our partner host organisations. The programme is run by Feedback, and you will spend time with Feedback for half a day every week and at strategic points in the placement. Further, you will attend some relevant external training.

WHAT KIND OF PLACEMENTS?

We are partnering with a broad range of organisations to offer:

Practical internships with a focus on developing sustainable food-based skills, which may include: growing, cooking, nutrition, creating and running a food project.

Campaigning internships with a focus on gaining a deeper understanding of our food systems and their environmental impact, and developing the skills needed to become a change-maker: from research to campaigning to influencing decision-makers.

WHEN DOES IT START?

EcoTalent will run between Jan 2020 - June 2021. We will be offering up to 36 paid internships across this time. The first cohort will be London based, but spring/summer 2020 we will expand to other UK cities. If you think your city should be included in the programme, please get in touch!

WHO CAN APPLY?

This project has been designed to create new points of entry into the environmental sector for those who are currently under-represented. Currently, the environmental sector is one of the least diverse, so we are keen to receive applicants from:

- Black, Asian and minority ethnic people
- People from low-income backgrounds and/or identify as working class
- People who identify as LGBTQIA
- People with a disability. We understand this will need to be reviewed per-placement basis, depending on the particulars of the role and organisation

Placements are only open to new graduates if they have not been able to secure a paid role within the sector after a year since graduating.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- People who are passionate about the environment and want to take action against climate change but have not studied a relevant subject at college or university
- People who have studied a relevant subject but who have been unable to secure work within a year of graduating
- People interested in training in practical food delivery (cooking or growing) with a sustainable focus but with little or no previous professional experience
- People interested in environmental campaigning but lacking confidence or skills in how to go about this

WHY 18-24?

EcoTalent is part of Our Bright Future, led by The Wildlife Trust and funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, which is a programme focused on providing young people with environmental skills and nature connection to catalyse further change.

We recognise that many young people outside this age range need more and better opportunities to break into the sector. We hope EcoTalent will inspire future similar programmes.

PAYMENT AND BENEFITS

All interns will be paid the London or UK Living Wage depending on the location. Over the 15 weeks, a total of 8 days holiday will be accrued which will need to be taken during the placement.

Interns will be provided with laptops and any other necessary equipment.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Each placement will be advertised individually and will ask for a written or video application. you will be asked to answer a set of questions outlined in the job advert.

The placements are only open to those legally entitled to work in the UK.

WHO ARE FEEDBACK?

Feedback are an environmental organisation working to regenerate nature through transforming the food system.

For more information about Feedback and the EcoTalent project, please visit:
www.feedbackglobal.org/campaigns/ecotalent

WAIT, I FORGOT TO ASK...

What exactly is an internship?

Generally speaking, an internship is a fixed-term work placement with an emphasis on training, learning and skill development. Internships are a great way of gaining experience as they are seen as an 'entry point' into a career.

Internships are fairly common in the UK, however, many are unpaid. We believe this is both unfair - opportunities should be open to all, not just a fortunate minority - and counterproductive, as it means the employers are missing out on the talents of many people. This is why EcoTalent are trying to buck the trend of unpaid internships, and why Feedback will be using the learning from this programme to advocate for long-term change.

