



STUDENTS AS
CHANGE
AGENTS



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Careers Service

JAMES CONWAY'S CHANGE AGENTS JOURNEY

James participated in the Students as Change Agents '20 programme and took on the challenge posed by the Edinburgh Tourism Action Group, "How might Edinburgh create an environmentally sustainable future in the revival of its tourism industry and festival post-COVID-19?" Read on to find out how the programme helped James to consitue with his Change Agent journey.



Taking part in the Students as Change Agents programme was a really valuable way to develop skills and experience that I use as part of my role in Research Consultancy at Changeworks.

I applied for the programme as I developed a passion for using research and data analysis to tackle sustainability challenges, throughout my time at the university. The programme offered me an opportunity to put these skills to use and further explore my interest in this area.

For example, I was working on a challenge to help find ways to make the Edinburgh Festival Fringe more sustainable. Our group identified travel as a significant contributor to the festival's carbon footprint. I got to conduct research into the different ways that other organisations promoted sustainable transport within similar environments. I then analysed the quantitative data on the impact of different schemes, as well as qualitative analysis of the social impacts they had created. I really enjoyed using my skills in this way. It helped me decide that sustainability research was a sector I was interested in after my studies.



STUDENTS AS
CHANGE
AGENTS



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Careers Service

One of the enjoyable aspects of participating in the programme is the chance to collaborate with students who are all interested in making a positive impact. I developed leadership skills, as I was good at identifying the unique skillset different team members brought to the challenge and ways to make sure they applied this to relevant parts of the project. The programme was a unique space to do this, as you get to work together with students from across the university and learn from each other's perspectives. This is just one of the ways the programme provides you with transferable skills that help you to continue making changes outside of the university context.

Overall, I would strongly recommend taking part in the Students as Change Agents programme. It's a great way to explore your own interests and how you can use the skills you develop at university to help organisations find solutions to the challenges they are working on. It also allows you to meet students from different disciplines, learn from each other, and develop transferable teamwork skills. The experience is also really enjoyable and can help you explore what you are interested in long term.