

The **U21 Global Citizens programme** enabled me to develop ideas and collaborate with fellow students from across borders and time zones, sharing knowledge, and becoming fully immersed in a diverse network. Each group was given a task to provide practical solutions to SDG-related challenges. In the process, this programme aided me to develop some crucial transferable skills like leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence, which are essential in the 21st century. Overall, it benefited me in improving my cultural competency and communication skills while turning my learning into a valuable global action to benefit the globe.

Vineet Paulson, MSc Business Analytics 2022/23



The **Universitas 21 Global Citizens Programme** has been beneficial to me. It has aided my understanding of global issues such as the world economy, climate change, and human rights. I've learned how these issues are linked and affect people all over the world through courses and discussions. It has helped me develop my own opinions and think critically about global issues. I've also worked with international students and been exposed to new cultures and ideas. This has helped me improve my interpersonal and collaborative skills, as well as broaden my perspective. I've gained leadership skills and confidence in myself. All of these advantages have made me a more informed, engaged, and effective global citizen.

Keerthivasan Raajasadhasivam, MSc Management 2022/23



Universitas 21 Global Citizens is a three-week online leadership programme in partnership with Common Purpose, a global not-for-profit organisation that specialises in Cross-Boundary Leadership. This programme requires a minimum of 9 hours of online learning over the 3 weeks. Along with this, there were online reflection workshops each week where we discussed about our experiences and learnings from the sessions, and interacted with other students from around the globe.

Along with my academics, I have always held self-development and community service in the highest regard. Prior to my master's from UCD Smurfit, during my undergraduate degree, I was a part of my college's ENACTUS team and had worked on various Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG). I believed that this program would help me convert my learnings and experience into global action, and work in a diverse team to develop ideas to tackle issues related to an SDG. I wanted to challenge my preconceptions and network with like-minded individuals from different parts of the world.

Every week required a different task to be completed in order to achieve the Universitas 21 & Common Purpose Global Citizens micro-credential. The following was the structure of the programme for the three weeks:

Week 1: We were introduced to Sustainable Development Goals and how to choose a SDG to work on. We also had to answer some self-reflective questions such as why did we choose a particular SDG, team work, etc over the Common Purpose's discussion forum. These questions enabled me to self-introspect and understand how I can become a Global Citizen. There was a virtual reflection session where students from different part of the world discussed in groups about their opinions, values and plans to work for their preferred SDG.

Week 2: We had to create and submit a presentation on our learnings from the course and how would we stand up as an active global citizen. Be as creative as possible. In addition, we also had to submit an action plan depicting our proposed plan to achieve our goals for the chosen SDG. This would help us have the impact that we aim to on the SDG we chose.

The SDG that I chose to work on was the SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. I believe it is high time that we realised the importance of being conscious about our food consumption and wastage. Being from a developing country, I have witnessed a huge amount of food being spoilt due to the lack of knowledge of techniques and poor infrastructure for food distribution for the local food vendors. To tackle this issue, I prepared a community empowerment plan to teach the vendors about the techniques to reduce food wastage while providing the vendors a way of converting the leftover food into a useful product. This product could provide them a supplementary sustainable economic growth and help create a more sustainable world.

Week 3: After submission of the presentation and action plan, we were assigned a fellow participant's presentation assessment to review and grade. And our own assessment was reviewed by another participant.

After the completion of all the above tasks, your submission is reviewed and graded. If you have successfully completed the tasks, you will receive your Global Citizens micro-credential within a month of the programme closing.

This programme gave me the guidance and confidence to take action on UNSDGs to tackle global issues, implement community empowerment projects at all levels, and stand up as a leader. I had the opportunity to interact and collaborate with people from all around the globe and learnt to adapt to varying viewpoints without any bias. This helped me in developing the ability to convey my views/opinions in a clear and concise manner to people from different backgrounds. I have become more open to constructive criticism in order to broaden my perspective and apply my new learnings to improve myself, personally and professionally.

I would definitely recommend this programme to other GLP students as it will help them in developing an all-round personality. It's a great opportunity to expand your network, challenge your thinking and be more confident to take actions on your preferred SDG on a global level. The exposure through this practical experience would teaches you how to be creative and think out of the box while balancing other tasks by efficiently managing your time to achieve your personal and professional goals. This experience would help you deliver innovative solutions to complex real-world problems while adhering to deadlines. Through this programme, you will get the opportunity to build a strong network of sustainability minded people and learn how to use your strengths and skills to stand out from the crowd.

Srijan Soni, MSc Business Analytics 2022/23



U21 Global Citizens online programme helped me become an aware and active citizen, and expand my knowledge about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has been done through the focus on one favourite Sustainable Development Goal which you are passionate about, why it is important personally for you, how to achieve it, and see what other participants think about that. A very convenient online platform allows every student to share an opinion about each topic, which is very useful and gives more insight for not covering questions. Moreover, participants have been from all around the world which helps to understand your interest in your Goal more deeply and from a different angle. Only through collaboration, discussion, and sharing opinions about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is it possible to achieve them, and U21 is the best training and platform where it is possible to do so.

Olga Telnova, MSc Finance 2022/23



I am glad to share my **U21 micro-internship** experience. I started the internship in December 2022. In the first two weeks, my teammates and I were tasked with providing solutions to a real-world Uganda gender inequality challenge - how to reconnect with women in the 15-20 age group and carry leadership mentoring. I collaborated with students from the UK, Germany, and the USA to conduct research and identify creative marketing solutions and strategies, and design promotional materials. At the end of the session, we presented our proposals to senior stakeholders within the organisation. After that, we also got a chance to review all the solutions from other teams and wrote a programme reflection. I significantly improved my leadership skills during the internship. If you are looking for an opportunity to collaborate with fellow students from all over the world, sharing knowledge and expertise whilst immersing yourself in a commercial organisation. Through this internship, you will gain presentation skills, hands-on experience, team management skills, time management skills, collaboration skills and cross-cultural communication skills. I highly recommend you to check out and join U21 Micro-internships. This internship lasts for one month and suites students from all programs.

Zexi Liu, MSc Digital Marketing 2022/23

