



GREEN OFFICE

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

What is it like to be the Green Office Education Coordinator? I started working for the Green Office just after the summer. The education portfolio when I started was ready for new projects and ideas and still is. This portfolio allows you to have the freedom to create projects related to education. Whether that is a new course or honours program it could also be something entirely new such as a MOOC, this stands for Massive Online Open Course and has slowly become the main project for this portfolio. Over the last few months I have learnt about all things sustainability related and was helped and supported by the team on my journey. My advice to the new education coordinator would be; don't worry if you don't know a lot about sustainability and the Green Office, it is a process and you will learn as you go.

I really enjoyed the networking aspect of the portfolio. Using LinkedIn, Facebook and other social media sites helped me to build a network of inspiring people and businesses. I then invited these people to speak at our Lunch Lectures. These lectures are a 45 min lecture on Wednesdays where we try and spread awareness about sustainability. Since it is such a broad subject, the lectures are themed, last month we had a speaker from the Vegan Challenge who talked about; The impact that is generated from consumption on a climate change related level, her personal story and journey with veganism, small things that can be done to lessen the impact on the environment, easy ways to substitute certain foods, veganism in Amsterdam and restaurants, the history of the Vegan Challenge, and generally creating awareness about the Vegan lifestyle.

The team environment is always fun, we have great events planned every month and work together nicely. You will make some great friends and contacts. The schedule is very flexible; some weeks will be full of meetings and then the next week only events, which for a student I think is perfect.

Other aspects of the portfolio would be looking after the inventory, planning not only lunch lectures but also evening lectures, workshops, debates and looking after a volunteer team of 5 or 6 students.