

SHAPE SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT PROJECTS: BECOME A PROJECT LEADER

The British Academy and Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS-UK) are working on an exciting collaborative project with 6 universities in the UK to demonstrate the importance of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in addressing sustainability challenges. We are currently inviting students to participate as Project Leaders.

This project, titled **SHAPE Sustainability Impact Projects**, will take place January - June 2024, flexibly alongside students' studies and other commitments. Small groups of students from each university will design and implement impactful projects addressing sustainability challenges relating to their university and local community. Students will work in inter-disciplinary groups, with regular support from academics, staff from their university, SOS-UK and the British Academy. The project will culminate at a conference in June where each group will present their projects and learnings.

The project is voluntary and there is an expected time commitment of roughly half a day per week. By taking part you will have the chance to turn your learning into a force for good, develop key employability skills through training and support, and receive a digital badge. The project will involve a mix of online national collaboration, and local in-person meetings.

PROJECT AIMS

The project aims to engage students and academics across subjects in the arts, humanities and social sciences in realising the relevance and impact of their disciplines in tackling **environmental, social, and economic sustainability challenges** in a local and hands-on context. Your university, as well as the local community, will serve as the testbed for developing and implementing the projects.

The project adopts British Academy's use of the term SHAPE. SHAPE is a collective name for Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts for People and the Economy/Environment. These are the subjects that **help us understand ourselves, others and the human world around us**. They provide us with the methods and forms of expression we need to build better, deeper, more colourful and more valuable lives for all. The project outputs will offer tangible examples of how SHAPE subjects can, and are, demonstrating this.

WHY TAKE PART?

Through taking part in SHAPE Sustainability Impact Projects this year, you can:

- Develop and demonstrate transferable **professional and academic skills**, such as project planning, sustainability, communication for engagement, monitoring and evaluation;
- Apply your specialist skills, knowledge and experience to real-world local and global sustainability challenges, with the **chance to make a positive impact**;
- **Meet and collaborate with like-minded students** at your university, and across the country;
- Gain a **certificate and digital badge** upon completion to demonstrate your participation, and the skills you've gained;
- Pitch your project to key decision makers;
- Taking part is free, and flexible around your other commitments;
- Hours spent on the project could contribute to local volunteering awards or course credits (*please confirm this with your university!*).

YOUR COMMITMENT

We expect students to commit an average of half a day per week for the duration of the project (January - June 2024). However, we expect most groups to finish their projects before June to allow time to focus on assessment periods in the summer. This includes:

- Attending the virtual launch event (TBC February 2024);
- Working with other students from your university to develop and implement your projects, including regular check-ins with staff (Jan/Feb - May 2024);
- Attend the conference to present your project, recommendations and learning, which is expected to be held in-person, location TBC (June 2024);

NEXT STEPS

Please speak to your university lead to apply, or email kedijah.eavesoconnor@sos-uk.org for more information.

We are totally committed to equality of opportunity for all, and making this project as inclusive and accessible as possible. We welcome applications from all students, particularly those that [are typically under-represented in the sustainability movement](#). If you have any requirements regarding accessibility, please let us know on the application page so we can aim to meet them.

The project does have limited capacity so we may need to shortlist applications if the number of applications exceeds the number of spaces.