

University Lecturer for Sustainable Energy

-Which academic career did you imagine when you started to study this Sustainable Development Master's Program?

Academically, I imagined working on engineering and technology. I was pleasantly surprised by the focus on soft skills as I was actually lacking those skills at the time of enrollment.

- Where are you currently working and what is your scope of activity?

I currently teach sustainable energy at my undergraduate alma mater. This includes instructing students on solar PV, solar heating, wind, EVs, lighting efficiency, heating and cooling, and hydrogen fuel vehicles.

- How is your job linked to sustainable development?

SDG7, sustainable energy for all!

- Did the study program help you getting the job, and does it help you doing the job?

Absolutely, in order to teach I need a minimal of a master's degree.

- How did you find your job and how long did it take you to reach your current position? (e.g. Did you do internships (unpaid or poorly paid) beforehand?)

Through networking and keeping in touch with my peers. I have also done unpaid work in an effort to start a business in smart grid technology.

- Would you call your work varied and interdisciplinary?

Yes.

- 3 tips you would like to pass on to future Sustainer graduates how to tackle their first job hunt?

1. Be present, enjoy the time as a sustainer. Narrow down your choices of WHO you want to work for (5 -8 organizations max) and FOCUS on them. Try building relationships with them first. So much time is wasted on sending out 100s of resumes that don't get looked at. Time could be better working on your skillset than blasting out resumes.

2. Walk the talk. I live and breathe sustainability now more than ever. I don't eat meat, I bike to work and use public transport. I continue to strive towards multi lingual competency. These life style choices are very fulfilling and decisions which a future employer would see as TRUE PASSION.

3. Don't get down on yourself. Life's not fair, if you weren't meant to work somewhere, another door will open. Keep positive.

- Any other advice you would like to share?

Never quit the good fight for a sustainable future.

- Nick Denegre