

PODCAST 1 What the future brings for a career on Sustainability.mp4

Dr Thereza de Aguiar [00:00:09] So hello, we are here with Regina and Regina works at the University of Aberdeen Career Service and she kindly is giving her time today. And we will just have a chat, a podcast, an interview whatever you want to call this interaction. So I would like to start asking Regina, what are the advantages to have knowledge on sustainability? Would the job market recognize it? Regina?

Regina Jaschke [00:00:53] Thanks, Thereza. Well, first of all, thanks for inviting me to this podcast. So would there be advantages knowing about sustainability, as with most most careers related question the first the first answer. The first answer is always. Well, it depends a little bit. So it will depend, I guess, on what sort of organisations we're talking about. Not necessarily, I think these days sector so much, but I think maybe to some extent the size of the organisation, that might actually play more of a role, because large organisations for sure, I don't really know of anyone who doesn't have sustainability either in their values, their objectives, or just is really aware of impact and of what they're doing. So I think that that is definitely an important factor. So knowing about this and getting that across in your applications for larger organisations, I think could be a real plus with small organisations. I think it will depend. Some of them certainly will very much be on that agenda as well, some of them maybe not so much. So it'll depend a little bit.

Dr Thereza de Aguiar [00:02:11] All right. So what are the opportunities for a career path related to sustainability?

Regina Jaschke [00:02:18] I mean, obviously, I think most people still when they say sustainability, you know, immediately you're thinking about jobs in ecology and environmental management and maybe a little bit of engineering where you have to take that into account, things like that. But it's really growing. So it's sustainability really has found its way into a lot of areas of work. So I would say, you know, if you're thinking more of a business career, there are still the areas that have existed for many years. So things like looking at corporate social responsibility, for example, and there are specific jobs and that obviously you could also look specifically at working for a charity or an organization who work in a particular area that has sustainability at its heart can only be something to make a particular city or neighborhood greener or maybe looking at fair trade, things like that. So business areas there as well. But as I said, it's really these days, it's part of everyone's larger business objectives, let's say. So really there are jobs in anything or they include some sort of sustainability

Dr Thereza de Aguiar [00:03:36] Considering your experience and career service, what are the areas of knowledge that are mostly associated to a career related to sustainability?

Regina Jaschke [00:03:48] I mean, it's pretty broad these days, I would say so, you know, in a business sense, I think it's really important that you understand in in the wider business context and I think particularly in accounting, I think this will become massively important over the next few years. I mean, we're about to go into COP26. And I think following that, this is where world leaders and leaders of really large businesses are going to need to talk about how can we make the world more sustainable, how can we make our our businesses, our areas of operation more sustainable? And of course, one of the things that I would certainly expect to be discussed is standards and standards have been changing quite a lot, obviously, over the last 10 years, 15 years or so. But there are quite a lot of different standards about now which take sustainability into account in one sense or another, that at the moment there's a lot of disagreement. There's there's a lot of different

models out there. But I think if and when we come to an agreement as to which standards should be taken forward in each country, you know, this will be a key part. Is that organization sustainable? And that will have an impact on what it's worth. So I think in future it will have a massive impact on how we do accounting and how you actually carry out the job and how you how you're assessing companies.

Dr Thereza de Aguiar [00:05:16] So which industries or sectors are the ones most interested to find professionals with expertise on sustainability?

Regina Jaschke [00:05:27] I think at the moment, you'll probably still find that it is more sort of energy and you know more environmental ones, but actually I now see a lot of adverts in for finance from from financial organisations, but also jobs in finance where sustainability is mentioned at least, and where that plays a role. So that is growing massively. Definitely.

Dr Thereza de Aguiar [00:05:54] Yes. So what kind of jobs are they offering?

Regina Jaschke [00:05:59] It really varies. So, I mean, if you want to work in sustainability, I guess, you know, you could easily find a job in finance accounting that has that at least as a component. I would say if you wanted to be absolutely at the heart of what you do, I guess you're probably still going to be looking at organisations who also then have that as their main business or who are looking at that as a as a very important operational area. So maybe something like energy or engineering, civil engineering and so on. There's a lot going on there. Or you could think about, you know, maybe working for a charity who's really involved in that. Chances are you probably won't find a training contract with them. They're probably going to train you as an accountant, but you could switch into that later on and then work as a professional accountant for someone like that.

Dr Thereza de Aguiar [00:06:52] Yes, so what are the organisation's expectations for a professional in sustainability?

Regina Jaschke [00:07:02] I think it's as with anything really that you obviously have to keep up to date with what's going on, so read about things, stay up to date with the news, know what the stories are, and really search that out. So not necessarily just the sort of top level off of news, but you do follow the right things. You can join LinkedIn groups and so on, that it'll give you more specialist news on those areas of work. And then, you know, in terms of expectations, it's not necessarily just knowing. It's also being able to demonstrate your interests. Motivation is hugely important to organisations. And of course, seeing that you're interested in something is good, but really having being able to show that on your CV that you've done something that demonstrates that is much, much better.

Dr Thereza de Aguiar [00:07:58] So how students can do this? What are the opportunities here at the university in which students can benefit to pursue a career in sustainability?

Regina Jaschke [00:08:12] A massive amount of opportunities at the University of Aberdeen. So so our university I'm not sure if students really are aware. The number of societies we have is so massive, there are so many more than there are at other institutions. And there are quite a few which are either maybe on the political side or are on the environmental side. So things like that definitely create opportunities. But you can also go outside the university, of course. So there would be other organisations you could volunteer for where you can gain experience. And as an accountant, it's always great because you have some specialist skills. So you could volunteer to be the treasurer for

someone could be any organisation, any cause. So if you're interested in sustainability, then you can do that for someone and that's that's a real boost for them.

Dr Thereza de Aguiar [00:09:12] Great. So what are the best chance to get informed on jobs available related to sustainability?

Regina Jaschke [00:09:22] So it depends a little bit, again, what you're looking for. So if you are looking for jobs at an accountancy, for example, or generally in finance, I think just looking at the more sort of general graduate career sites like our Career Connect know where we advertise things or other sort of big websites like Target and Prospects and so on. I think that's absolutely fine. And you can obviously search by keyword and see which organisations mention sustainability. Where where does that feature? If you want to take a little bit further and say, but I really only want to work for people who work in sustainability, then I would say there are websites as well which specialise in environmental concerns. So there's environment jobs and things like that. If you're interested in that, you can use our website to find this as well. And then also, I would say LinkedIn, it's very easy to search on there and find things that are specific. Or then also, as I said, sort of charities. They also have their specialist websites or international development and so on, any of those. So students want to go on the Careers and Employability Service website. Scroll down a little bit. You'll come to an area where it says search for career resources, and you can do that by different job types. So if you go for charity or if you go for more environmental areas there, you'll find websites that are specific to that.

Dr Thereza de Aguiar [00:10:55] Great. So I would like to finalise this chat podcast or interview, by asking you, do you have any advice for an accounting student who wants to pursue a career related to sustainability?

Regina Jaschke [00:11:15] Sure. I mean, my sort of main tips would be to get involved. So do something, do a few things. Maybe if you have the time to demonstrate that you really are interested and that this is where you want to work. So whether that is volunteering on campus or off campus, there are all sorts of opportunities. There will even online will be things available. Keep up to date and get yourself really involved. So get clued up. You know follow what goes on in the world. You know follow what goes on at COP26, be knowledgeable about these things. And just really if you're then making applications, and particularly when you get invited to interview, just make sure that you really understand what goes on and that you're following the news and can talk about that.

Dr Thereza de Aguiar [00:12:05] Thank you very much, once again, bridging that and I will finish with this podcast just now. Thank you so much.

Regina Jaschke [00:12:15] Thank you, Thereza.