

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER



BROUGHT TO YOU BY SHAAON AND MANSHA

Hi! We are Mansha Kumar and Shaaon Bhattacharya, this summer's UKRN interns, and we are proud to present our edition of the newsletter.



## UKRN UPDATES

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We are delighted to welcome our latest secondee to UKRN (Sital Patel) who will be joining us from the FCA. Sital is a lawyer by background and works as a Technical Specialist in the Legal division at the FCA and is also a current participant in the placement scheme as part of UKRN's Next Gen NED programme.

However, that also means that we are shortly due to say farewell to Makedah Simpson, who is coming to the end of her secondment in September. We will be sorry to lose Makedah, who has made such a massive contribution to UKRN in her time with us, particularly on the Vulnerability agenda, revitalising our Young Professionals network and taking our communications and social media output to new highs! Makedah offers her reflections on her time at UKRN (see next page).



### NEXT GEN NEDS

We will soon be opening applications for the 5<sup>th</sup> cohort of our Next Generation NED placement scheme, and we're delighted to confirm that CAA will be joining next year's programme. We will be holding a session for our Community of Interest later this month on the application process and what we will be looking for, as well as a dedicated Q&A session during the application window. We're also working with our current and previous Next Gen NEDs to provide a bit more detail about what their experience has been like to add to [our website](#), to help applicants to know what to expect if they are successful



### JOBS BOARD EXPANSION

Building on the continued success and popularity of our Jobs Board, we will be offering non-members the opportunity to use our Jobs Board to advertise their roles. This will be funded by a small annual fee, to cover the costs of developing this functionality on our website. We are currently in our 'soft launch' phase, working with a select number of non-members to iron out any final wrinkles, with a full launch planned for later in the year.





# SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY

The Sustainability Academy has been developed by the UKRN in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University's leading Global Sustainability Institute to provide targeted and bespoke training on regulatory sustainability to regulators, policymakers and climate leaders.



Expressions of interest are now open, with a 10% early bird discount! Please contact [UKRN@caa.co.uk](mailto:UKRN@caa.co.uk) for more information

After nearly two rewarding years, my time with UKRN will conclude at the end of September.

It has been a genuine privilege to lead several networks, including Vulnerability, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Data Strategy. Throughout my tenure, I've taken pride in spotlighting emerging and current topics, fostering collaboration across sectors and industries, and amplifying the important work of our members.

Some of you may have known me as your network lead. Others, we may have crossed paths via email, at an event, or through an interaction on the UKRN LinkedIn page where over my tenure, our page grew over 300%. However we connected, I hope that—however modest—my contribution has made a positive and lasting impact on UKRN.

The insights and experiences gained here will undoubtedly continue to shape my professional journey and as I move onwards, I remain a UKRN advocate who leaves with deep gratitude for the opportunities, connections, and growth that UKRN has provided.

Thank you.

## MAKEDAH SIMPSON

### REFLECTIONS ON TIME AT UKRN



## OUR TIME AS INTERNS

**During our 6 week internship, we had the chance to visit multiple different regulators. Here are our reflections!**

Shaaon: A really fun and engaging away day at Ofcom where we got to know the team really well. A particular highlight was doing the Myers-Briggs test and seeing how the team's work personalities fit together, as was grabbing a drink on the sunny banks of the Thames after!

Mansha: Seeing the team in action for the first time, collaborating with each other to maximise everyone's strengths, excited me for working with the team in the future! We discussed UKRN's future goals and utilised skills such as horizon-scanning to analyse the risks and opportunities in the regulatory world.

### AWAY DAY AT OFCOM





## CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY



Mansha: If I could use one word to describe the day at the CAA, then it would be ‘inspiring’. We had the chance to meet and speak to a wide range of people, in different roles, exposing us to careers that we didn’t know existed. Speaking to a medical assessor, we were advised to identify our purpose and intention when finding a career for ourselves, something that has stuck with me since our visit!

Shaaon: Our first regulator visit was hard to top! It was really eye-opening as to the diversity of roles within regulation, hearing from a lawyer who had interned with the War Crimes trial in Yugoslavia as well as a sustainability expert and a chartered accountant. We gained some incredible career advice as well as spending longer than expected in the CAA’s lift!

Shaaon: We had a very different day at Ofcom to most of our other regulator visits, as we were mixed in with the Ofcom interns. It was great to be able to meet others at similar stages in their lives to us, who had some really interesting life experiences that were great to hear about. The teambuilding exercises were lots of fun and we made some great connections!

Mansha: Our day at Ofcom gave us the chance to meet their lovely interns and be a part of their induction day. I particularly enjoyed learning about the multiple networks within Ofcom, created to bolster inclusivity within the company. Meeting the leaders of these networks was a highlight as you could really sense their excitement and passion!

## OFCOM



## FINANCIAL REPORTING COUNCIL



Mansha: From the moment we entered the FRC, we felt immediately welcome! Our first session started the day off at a high as we learnt about the FRC’s role, and I didn’t even realise we were learning because of how much fun we were having! The Market Intelligence and Insights team also created such a kind and humorous working environment and I hope to one day have a similar environment with my team!

Shaaon: We were able to shadow the amazing Market Intelligence and Insights team at the FRC. As well as learning about the FRC’s regulatory role, we were lucky enough to get a taste of economic impact assessments and collating financial market information. The team’s infectious humour and energy made us feel right at home!



## OFWAT



Shaaon: We were able to learn about the history of the water sector and the huge challenges that need to be overcome in the next 20 or so years to avoid severe shortages in the near future. Who knew that a 5-minute shower can use up to 75L of water?! It was incredibly valuable to gain the perspectives of both recent graduates and the COO at Ofwat, whose energy and love for their jobs really came across!

Mansha: We had the most engaging day at Ofwat learning about how water can influence almost everything around us! Having the chance to meet the graduates at Ofwat was really valuable as they emphasised the countless development opportunities provided during the programme. Learning from Jasbir, the COO at Ofwat, opened our eyes to the immense challenges faced by the water industry.

Mansha: The day at Ofgem exposed us to the technical side of the gas and electricity world, giving us the chance to meet experts in their fields. I particularly enjoyed the net zero talk from Jack, the Strategic Lead, as he highlighted the UK's progress against climate change! We also had the wonderful opportunity to meet the Ofgem apprentices and graduates, gaining great advice from them!

Shaaon: We learnt about the intricacies of the gas and electricity markets, as well as the roles of the Networks and Delivery & Schemes teams at Ofgem. We were also able to have a great lunch with the Ofgem graduates and apprentices, who were super friendly and helpful in sharing their experiences!

## OFGEM



## CAREER SESSIONS WITH LOUISE BUCKLEY



Shaaon: It was an incredible opportunity to get personalised advice and feedback on CVs, cover letters and interviews from Louise. Her experience, empathy and encouragement made it an extremely valuable few days. What really stuck with me was the importance of having non-negotiables when choosing the right job and career for you!

Mansha: Spending the days with Louise, learning how to maximise ourselves as applicants proved to be a greatly valuable experience! We gained immense insight into CV and Cover letter writing as well as how to present ourselves in interviews. At our second visit, we had the opportunity to carry out mock interviews and receive very useful feedback to improve!



## Outside the amazing regulator visits, here are some more highlights from our internship!

Right at the start of our six weeks, we had a fascinating session with Professor Cloda Jenkins on the economics of regulation, which gave us a great theoretical and practical foundation to appreciate what was to come. Besides this newsletter, we were tasked with providing digestible summaries of the government's industrial and infrastructure strategies. It was really beneficial to have that exposure to government documents and develop our writing and communicative skills in this way.

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We were also fortunate to be able to dial into two incredibly interesting speaker sessions alongside the FCA interns, one delivered by the amazing William Hague and another by our very own Kev Smith. The life lessons and experience they shared were truly inspiring!

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We really appreciate the opportunity to dial into a number of UKRN's network calls to see the value of collaboration and the similarities and differences between member regulators. Following up on one such call on Cyber Security, we were able to talk to Heather Toomey from the ICO, whose expertise, advice and warmth was incredibly valuable.

### OFCOM INTERNS AT UKRN

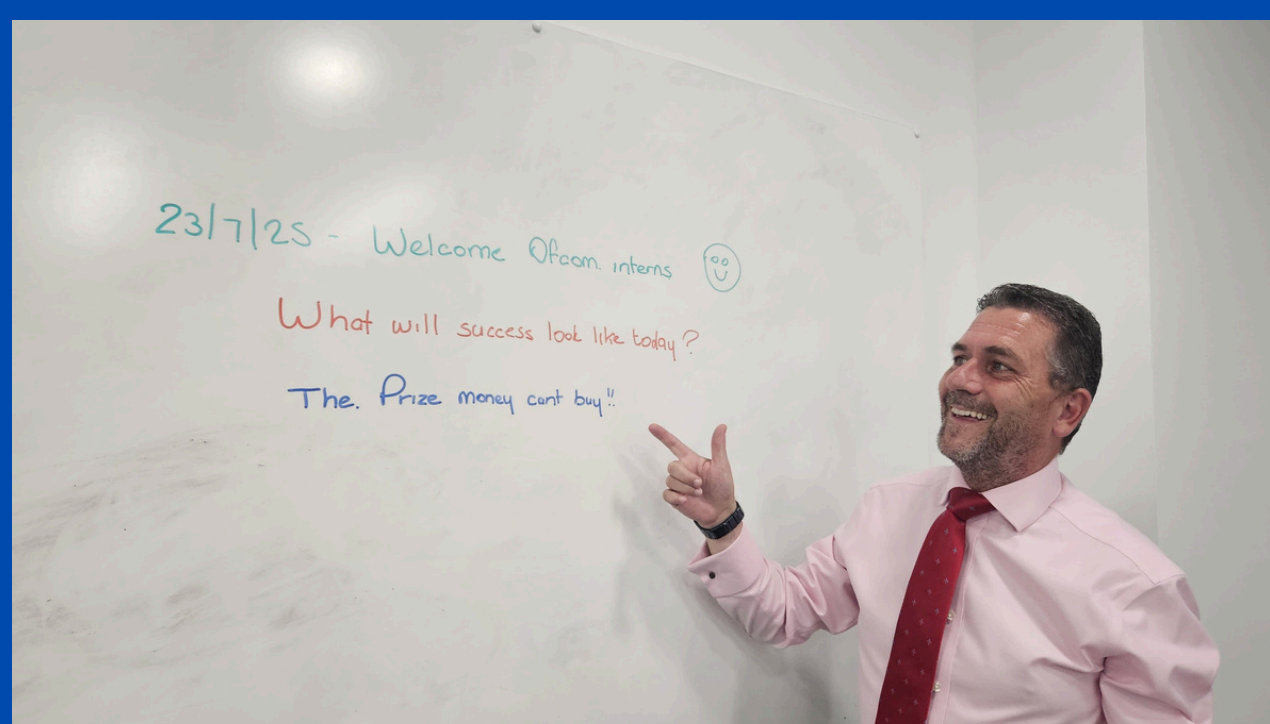


### OFCOM INTERNS AT UKRN



Having been at Ofcom and met their interns in our second week, we welcomed five of them to the UKRN later in our programme. They were able to learn more about the UKRN's work, as well as about our internship experience in a session we presented. We hope they found it a fun and useful day!

### KEV'S INSPIRING WORDS







## KEV SMITH

### INTERNSHIP ROUNDUP



I have had the honour of mentoring Mansha and Shaaon over the 6 weeks they have been with us. With a reduced UKRN team, we had to make the difficult decision to go from three to two interns for this summer, so the need to get the blend right was imperative. Shaaon and Mansha really didn't disappoint! From day one, they have embraced every opportunity and thrown themselves into every aspect of the internship. As with our interns last year, I asked them to 'be a sponge' and 'to be curious' and they took it to a new level!

You will have seen from the newsletter the sheer number of different areas they have been involved in, and the number of regulators (some for the first time this year), from our members, where they have gained valuable insight, hands on experience and knowledge. We thank our members for this truly 'money can't buy experience'.

They have shown real maturity, been measured, delivered some excellent work, fitted in brilliantly with the team and above all, have really maximised the opportunity. I am very proud of the way they have showcased their talent, worked diligently together and, I believe, grown as people. They can go back to their families and their respective universities, knowing they really delivered this summer.

'Every day is a school day' at UKRN and we never stop learning, so I am confident as part of our 'making regulation an attractive career choice' objective, we now have two more converts, who will champion regulation and the amazing opportunities that regulation presents!





# A FINAL WORD FROM US

The past 6 weeks has indeed been a ‘money can’t buy’ experience, and we take a huge number of valuable life lessons and meaningful connections back with us to our final year of university. Though we had some limited knowledge of regulation from our undergraduate PPE and Politics and IR degrees respectively, we have learnt an incredible amount over the course of this internship from so many fascinating individuals.

We have had the opportunity to visit a number of regulators to learn more about their roles and upcoming challenges – as you have seen, we were able to visit the CAA, Ofcom, FRC, Ofwat and Ofgem! Everybody we met at the regulators was exceptionally friendly and interesting, always willing to answer our questions and share their infectious passion for their careers. On top of learning about the intricacies of the sectors of the UKRN’s member regulators, we were also able to gain invaluable life advice from a wide variety of people, from recent graduates and apprentices to COOs and senior directors. We would like to thank everyone who made this possible at the respective regulators and to all those who put in the time and effort to make our experience at each so special.

The entire UKRN team has been so welcoming from the very start of our internship, and their energy and humour has really made us feel right at home! We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to spend time with the team, dial into network meetings and make connections with such inspiring people. Our special thanks go to Kev Smith, who has acted as a combination of our line manager, mentor and ‘work dad’! The programme he put together for us was fantastic and we are exceptionally grateful for all his time and sacrifices in making it possible. We have taken a number of crucial bits of life advice from him that we will never forget, most notably about the importance of interpersonal skills, authenticity and balance in life – ‘people buy people first!’ We count ourselves extremely lucky to have been able to work with Kev in this internship!

As we leave this internship, we take with us a plethora of valuable experiences, advice and skills. Something that will stick with us is the emphasis on finding a career that aligns with your values and future goals. We hope to find careers that fuel us with as much enthusiasm as the regulators we have met!

