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CAROLE RENIERO'S CHANGE AGENTS JOURNEY

Our first alumni spotlight comes from Carole Reniero who participated in our Spring 2021 programme. She took on the challenge with our external partner, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. Read on to find out how the programme helped her to continue her Change Agent journey.



Taking part in the SACHA programme at the University of Edinburgh supported me with my personal and academic development. Firstly, I was placed on a project that I was very passionate about, and that provided me with new inspiration for my dissertation, which turned out to be on the same topic: children and child protection. I found that working both in a Team and independently provided the ideal balance for me to do research on my own, communicate with the organizational partners, and meet with the rest of the group to share our feedback and decide how to move forward with the project. The programme held a very good structure within a clear time frame.

Some of the key skills I further developed in the SACHA programme, including teamwork, communication and time management, turned out to be fundamental in my current position with the UN, where I support the mission of the Global Education Coalition, UNESCO's educational response to Covid-19. More specifically, I support the strategic planning and overall project management of the mission, as well as the coordination of our major international events like the TVET International Conference in December 2021. Therefore, the SACHA programme not only supported me with writing my dissertation, but also gave me the opportunity to confirm my interest in the fields of education, youth and children.



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What I found challenging about SACHA was finding the best or most relevant answer to the project question itself, namely “how do we present a global index on child welfare using existing data so that governments can take action?”. It is a complex issue that the group did not have a lot of time to work on, which prompted us all to collaborate closely, communicate regularly and put together the most important information we could find. Interestingly, the pressure we faced of finding a solution in a limited time frame is what made our Team work better together. The SACHA programme, university and my current position have shown me that grace and efficiency under pressure is key to great leadership.

Overall, communicating in a diverse Team, discovering one’s passion, improving one’s academic work... That is all possible when taking part in the SACHA programme, and I highly recommend it to any student who is keen to challenge him or herself, learn something new, and be a part of something socially important and impactful.