Case study - Virtual Internship with Ecoexist, Pune, India

For this virtual internship, three students from the University of Birmingham partnered with three students from Swinburne University in Australia, to undertake a 10-week virtual internship with Ecoexist, a social enterprise based in Pune, India. The focus of the internship would be around reducing the level of plastic bags in India, identifying suitable solutions to the challenges posed. Working with their counterparts in Australia, each intern would focus on 3 key areas – research, marketing and design.

Rachel Bromley, Liberal Arts & Science, Undergraduate student

- **Design & Innovation Virtual Internship – Ecoexist, India**
- **Rachel focused on reviewing the findings of the research and marketing in India, UK and Australia, to identify design solutions and alternatives to plastic bags in India.**

What are the key skills you've developed from the virtual internship?

A key strength I've developed through the virtual internship is with my communication skills. I've learned lots of lessons on the challenges of communicating virtually and how to overcome these. As most companies now have an element of face to face and on-line communication, having these new skills will be very useful for me in the future.

Has the virtual internship helped with your career path?

The virtual internship has helped me to clarify my career aspirations; I definitely know I want to work in the environmental sector. This sector is interdisciplinary and requires communication and collaboration, two key skills that I have gained from the virtual internship.

What did you most enjoy about the virtual internship?

It was really nice working with people from other countries and to see how easy it is to connect with them. Even though I didn't leave the country for this internship, I've worked with people from India, Australia and Ghana, and feel more now confident about working abroad. I've really enjoyed the virtual internship and would recommend it to anyone considering applying.