



# U360 Business Sustainability Internship Program

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

U360 is an experiential education and professional development program focused on business sustainability offered by the nonprofit Manomet. The internship is managed by Manomet's Sustainable Economies Program, which advises communities and businesses on practices that enhance their economic viability and human well-being while measurably reducing their environmental footprint.

U360 increases students' knowledge of environmental issues; the "triple-bottom line" of business sustainability (environmental, social, and governance); and business management—and their critical thinking and problem-solving skills—through real-world applications. The two-semester program incorporates applied science, business, and sustainability workshops, career skills training, sustainability assessments of small businesses, and a Capstone project.

U360 complements academic programs by offering real-world experience in three vital areas that are critical to both solving today's complex sustainability challenges and preparing college students for their careers: applied practical sustainability, engaging people with different viewpoints, and professional skills. (Specifically, the U360 curriculum focuses on helping students develop the skills that employers most seek: communication, teamwork, professionalism, creative problem-solving, and strategic thinking.) U360 empowers today's youth to take action on the environmental, social, and economic challenges that will disproportionately impact their generation, and gives them skills and knowledge they can bring to *any* job or industry. Additionally, with an extensive focus on career preparedness, U360 gives students a unique professional experience that differentiates them from their peers when entering the workforce and helps them gain exceptional communication skills, confidence, a professional network, and a vast understanding of small business operations.

While there are countless opportunities today for college students who want to complete an internship or experience real-world learning outside of the classroom, what distinguishes U360 from other opportunities is its innovative approach of connecting students with small business owners for direct, real-world learning. Students spend the majority of the program interviewing up to 25 small businesses each about their current practices and administering Manomet's assessment of their triple-bottom line sustainability. The U360 Program Manager guides students through researching and interviewing small businesses, analyzing their current level of sustainability, and identifying areas for improvement. The U360 internship ends with each student creating a Sustainability Action Plan for one business they interviewed and presenting it to a panel of business leaders in a final Capstone Competition, along with the student teams from other participating universities. As a high-impact internship, U360 provides students with an in-depth understanding of how the triple-bottom line approach is applied to small businesses; tools and strategies for creating sustainability solutions in the real world; an opportunity to create a customized and feasible action plan for an actual business; and skills for effectively communicating with individuals and businesses about sustainability. More information can be found at: <https://www.manomet.org/project/u360/>

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### *Details*

- U360 is designed for students enrolled in business, economics, science, environmental, sustainability and/or liberal arts programs, but all majors are welcome to apply.

- This is a team program, and each year, up to 25 students will be enrolled and divided into state teams of no more than six.
- In order to increase access to this program for students, U360 is (and always has been) an entirely virtual program with a high level of support and engagement between the students and U360 staff. Students participate from their own campuses and will not have to travel to the Manomet office.
- The program is an average of 8-10 hours/week, which includes team trainings, workshops and weekly meetings, and independent research, outreach, and interviews with businesses. Students create their own schedule and work remotely outside of the mandatory group time. (The workshops and team meetings will be scheduled once the team is formed, in order to accommodate every student's schedule.)
- Students are required to attend all workshops and the weekly team meeting from their campus via live video conference.
- This is an unpaid internship, but students can often earn university credit for participation (depending on university policies, major requirements, etc.). Ideally, the internship takes the place of a class in the student's schedule, and is not being done on top of a full course load.

*Timeframe:*

- U360 is a two-semester internship; the program starts the first week of the fall semester and concludes on the last day of the spring term; excluding all university holidays, breaks, and final exam periods

*Experience required:*

- Sophomore and higher undergraduate students are eligible
- Interest in business and/or sustainability
- Basic computer skills (specifically Microsoft Office and Google programs)

*Additional skills and experience preferred:*

- Ability to work independently and manage time effectively
- Ability to listen and communicate effectively
- A willingness to contact and interact with people in the community (in person, over the phone, and via email) and some degree of comfort with doing so
- Strong interpersonal skills and attention to detail

*Instructions for applying:*

- The deadline to apply for next school year is at 11:59pm on July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Submit your current resume with a cover letter and three references (include each reference's name, relationship to you, email address, and phone number) to Lora Babb, U360 Program Manager, at [lbabb@manomet.org](mailto:lbabb@manomet.org). (NOTE: at least one reference must be a professional reference and no direct relatives can be listed as a reference.)
- Complete this online questionnaire: <http://goo.gl/forms/DFB3gWbSj9>

*Links for more information:*

- [U360 Curriculum Brochure](#)
- [U360 Overview Video](#) (3 mins)
- [U360 Alumni Testimonials Video](#) (2 mins)
- [U360 Alumni Testimonials](#) (written)