

'Future planet and Innovation'

Course Year: 2018-2019	Study: Chemistry
Date report:	Interviewee: Sander Vanca

Coordinator: Mitchell Groen

Hi, my name is Sander Vanca, and I study Chemistry, following the track Chemistry of life. However during my studies, I came to the realization that Chemistry might not be exactly the right fit for me, therefore I started looking around for minors that peaked my interest. When talking to some friends who have done their minor a year prior to mine. I found out that they had done the minor Future Planet and Innovation and told me this minor would be perfect for me. I saw the poster and I checked the RUG website for more information. Once I knew more about the minor I got pretty excited to do it. I wanted to do something that is not Chemistry related but still lets me use my skills that I learned in my bachelor. I am interested in sustainability and as it is a university wide minor focusing on sustainability, I did feel this minor would fit me very well.

As this is a university wide minor, I did work with students from many different studies. With these students I would work on group projects using everybody's knowledge to tackle sustainability issues, and learning to look at these problems with a broader perspective.

I learned a lot about writing papers, these papers I wrote were less based on facts. This proved more difficult than expected. We as Chemists do not get a lot of training in academic writing, therefore in this minor I quickly had to learn about how to write academically.

During period 1A I had two courses. The first course is a 10 ECTS course called Global Challenges. In this course you were divided in groups and to each group a continent was assigned. Each week a certain sustainability topic was introduced. The week was set up as follows. On Monday the topic got introduced and two guest teachers would talk about the topic. On Tuesday the topic got expanded by the regular teacher and two other guest teachers would come by. Wednesday we would work out the pitch and on Thursday the pitch would be given at a congress like setting. In the last week we had to defend our pitches again during a final congress.

The other course was to write a paper, for this course I got a global theme to write the paper about. I had to use my own background to make a people, planet, profit analysis. The people, planet, profit analysis is an analysis technique where you look on the subjects from a social, an environmental and an economical points of view. There was room to work on this course on every Friday.

In the second period we had one big project. We were divided in a group of five to six students, all with different backgrounds. To each group, a tutor and a client were assigned. Together with the tutor and the client we would work on a sustainability problem. We got workshops helping us to do so. For example we had to do a stakeholder analysis. In the end a report was written on how we think the problem could be solved.

There were some dense deadlines, as we had to hand in a proposal after two weeks. In the end we handed in a final report and gave a presentation. Once that was done a large dinner was held with all the students who participated in the minor.

An important thing to know is that for this minor only 60 spots are available. I mailed the coordinator of the minor beforehand about extra information of the minor and I had to apply. You were able to apply after the minor market, so I applied as soon as it was opened.

Lastly I want to say that there are a lot of different possibilities in minors. You do not have to be afraid to do something else beside Chemistry if you are interested in doing something different.