



Solar PV Support Programme

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Tel: +44 (0)28 9072 7769

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Action Renewables Scholarship

In 2023, Alice Maxwell was awarded the first Action Renewables Scholarship from Ulster University to study the MSc in Energy Storage. We caught up with Alice to find out more about how she applied and what her plans are for the future:

1. Applying for the scholarship in 2023

When the opportunity was presented for a scholarship from Action Renewables, it was something I jumped at the chance for as it would enable me to further my education. The scholarship in its entirety was worth £15,000 which is a significant amount of money on offer which made the idea of continuing my education a more feasible option. The application process itself was comprised of an application form detailing my prior education and the potential impact the scholarship might have for me. These themes were further explored during my in-person interview as part of the final selection process. This showed to me the importance the company was placing on furthering education into this sector and also in ensuring the funding went to a student who they deemed would get the most benefit from it.

2. Meeting the Action Renewables team

Throughout my time as the Action Renewables scholarship student, I had the unique opportunity to sit down with various members of the Action Renewables team and learn about what they do. The team greeted me warmly and were happy to take time out of their day to explain the details of their work and how each element comes together to comprise the overall company. This allowed me the opportunity to see how a company within the renewable energy sector operates and to understand its core functions.

3. Assigning a project for completion

I was given the opportunity to write a small piece of work for the company on net zero. This piece of writing investigated the current net zero goals and what changes would be needed both at a micro and macro scale in order to ensure the targets are met. This piece of writing enabled me to discuss lessons learned from my lectures at university and investigate the steps required for net zero to be achieved.

4. Completing the MSc at Ulster University

Completing my master's in Energy Storage at Ulster University was a very worthwhile experience and I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the university. It seemed like the most natural route for continuing my education, after completing the Energy BSc Hons course at Ulster University as part of the class of 2023. It has been a very worthwhile journey and has allowed me to further my education within the renewable energy sector.

5. The impact of the funding on your year..

The funding provided by the scholarship alleviated the financial burden of studying for a master's degree and allowed me to complete my studies comfortably without the associated stress. I was therefore in a position to travel to and from university, purchase the necessary equipment that I required for my course, without having to stress about affording them. It also meant I could work less hours on my days off allowing me to provide the necessary time and dedication to furthering my studies.

The scholarship award made sure that I did not require extra financial assistance from outside sources such as Student Finance or family members, in order to complete my studies. This was very reassuring for me meaning that I didn't need to worry about the financial implications of my studies in the future years ahead.

6. What do you intend to do once qualified?

Once I receive my qualification I intend to work within an area of the renewable energy/energy storage sectors. I aim to use the education I have gained in order to strive towards the net zero targets that are in place.