

Information for City Government Host

ProSPER.Net/Global Compact Cities Programme Internship Program

Introduction

Your organisation is invited to host an intern under the ProSPER.Net/Global Compact Cities Programme Internship Program. This internship would enable your city to undertake a City Scan, which is a core diagnostic tool of the UN Global Compact – Cities Programme.

This document is designed to inform prospective city government hosts and provides:

- An overview of the ProSPER.Net/GCCP Internship Program.
- An overview of the Global Compact City Scan.
- An introduction to the United Nations Global Compact, the Global Compact Cities Programme (GCCP) and RMIT University.

The ProSPER.Net/GCCP Internship Program

The ProSPER.Net/GCCP internship program is designed for students studying at ProSPER.Net universities.

ProSPER.Net is an alliance of leading universities in the Asia-Pacific region that are committed to integrating sustainable development into postgraduate courses and curricula. The network, dubbed ProSPER.Net: Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network, is developing a new generation of leaders who can best tackle global sustainability challenges in the face of rapid environmental degradation.

By changing the way higher education institutions teach students about sustainability, ProSPER.Net improves the ways in which future professionals manage sustainability issues across a wide variety of disciplines.

City Government Placement

Interns are based in a selected city government and assist that city to complete a Global Compact City Scan assessment (more information about the City Scan process is provided below).

An academic from the student's university with links to a suitable city government will supervise the research, along with a city government mentor. An academic from RMIT University, the host institution for the Cities Programme, will also assist in supervising the intern's research through regular Skype meetings.

Each intern undertakes a City Scan assessment over an agreed period of time. Internships are due to commence in September 2015 and generally run over three months, although a longer period may be negotiated.

Interns

Internships are open to postgraduate (master or doctoral) students who are currently enrolled in ProSPER.Net member institutions.

For a list of current member institutions, see: <http://prospernet.ias.unu.edu/index.php/about-prosper-net-page/current-members/>

Interns will have a background in development-related fields such as economics, international relations, public or business administration, or environmental studies. Written and spoken proficiency in English is required.

Responsibilities of City Government Mentor

City government mentors are responsible for supervising and supporting interns with undertaking a City Scan assessment throughout an intern's city government placement. Responsibilities include:

- Acting as a supervisor and project champion.
- Committing to the City Scan project and communicating across your organisation about the city's participation.
- Assisting your intern with gathering data across multiple departments in the city government.
- Providing guidance and being available to answer questions related to the City Scan assessment.
- Providing a workspace for your intern.

The Global Compact City Scan

Background

Cities and regions are playing an increasingly important role in tackling critical global issues. Their responsibilities are also increasing.

As well as the need for leadership and transparent governance, city and regional governments are required to be agile, responsive, connected and informed. They are working in complex environments and need to engage and balance the needs and interests of many parties such as citizens, civil society and the business community. However, given the bureaucratic structure of city and regional governments, working holistically, whilst essential, presents a challenge for many.

In terms of Global Compact participation, many issue areas – and city strategies – directly correlate with the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact across the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. However, given the cross-cutting nature of the principles in the urban environment, identification and reporting on issues and strategies is not a simple exercise.

In response to the above, the Cities Programme has developed a diagnostic and reporting tool termed the ‘Global Compact City Scan’.

What is the City Scan?

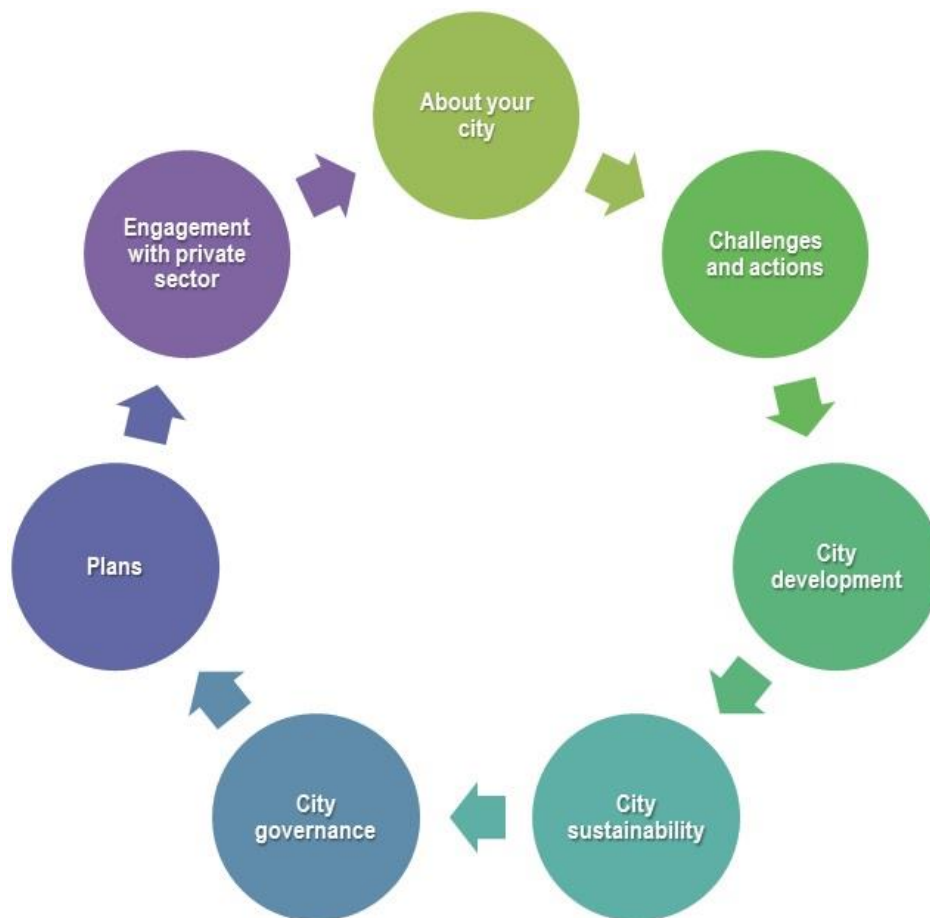
The City Scan is a diagnostic and reporting tool. It is based on an in-depth survey which requires contribution from across the municipal government. It takes a number of weeks to collate and input data.

The City Scan provides:

- The opportunity for cities to identify their region’s challenges, record their progress, priorities and plans and highlight successful initiatives.
- A holistic perspective of the environment in which the city government operates and enables a whole of city government view of strategy and action.
- A valuable platform from which to plan, set goals, monitor progress and recognise achievement – through the lens of the Ten Principles in the urban context.

How is the City Scan structured?

There are five sections in the City Scan to complete:



Section 1 – About Your City/Region

This section asks you to provide general information about your city/region. For example:

- ‘What is the resident population?’
- ‘What is the annual revenue and expenditure?’

Section 2 – Challenges and Actions

This section is the major part of the City Scan. It seeks information about the challenges that your city faces and the policies, objectives and initiatives of your government aimed at addressing areas of need. This section also provides the opportunity to highlight areas of good practice.

The questions are grouped in three broad categories each with a number of related issue/topic areas:

1. **City Development**
2. **City Sustainability**
3. **City Governance**

City Development

The City Development category identifies challenges and actions around:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Social Inclusion and Equality | Education | Health and Wellbeing | Social Care Services |
| Food Security | Access to Adequate Housing | Access to Mobility and Public Transport | Community and Cultural Identity |
| Access to Employment | Fair Work | Public Safety and Security | Sustainable Economic Development |

City Sustainability

The City Sustainability category identifies challenges and actions around:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Environmental Sustainability | Water Management | Energy Security | Waste Management and Reduction |
| Climate Change Mitigation | Climate Change Adaptation | Inter-generational Equity | Resilience |

City Governance

The City Governance category identifies challenges and actions around:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Anti-corruption | Leadership | Transparency |
| Accountability | Community Participation | Resources and Leadership |

Section 3 – Plans

You can upload specific plans and other documents that demonstrate your planning and initiatives relating to the identified areas. For example, you may choose to upload your city's:

- 'Sustainability Plan'
- 'Local Economic Development Strategy'
- 'Cultural Vibrancy Plan'

Section 4 – Engagement with the Global Compact

This section is for cities that are participants of the Global Compact Cities Programme. Non-participating cities do not need to complete this section.

This section seeks information and opinions about your engagement with the Global Compact and Cities Programme.

Section 5 – Engagement with the Business Community

This section seeks information and opinions about your engagement with your business community, collaboration and your actions to influence Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Development of Report

Interns will work with the Cities Programme International Secretariat to develop a report from the City Scan data. This will be presented to the city government at the completion of the placement.

The United Nations Global Compact

The UN Global Compact is a strategic policy initiative for businesses that are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anticorruption. By doing so, business, as a primary driver of globalisation, can help ensure that markets, commerce, technology and finance advance in ways that benefit economies and societies everywhere.

As social, political and economic challenges (and opportunities) — whether occurring at home or in other regions — affect business more than ever before, many companies recognise the need to collaborate and partner with governments, civil society, labour and the United Nations.

This ever-increasing understanding is reflected in the Global Compact’s rapid growth. With over 12,000 corporate participants and other stakeholders from over 160 countries, it is the largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative in the world.

Endorsed by chief executives, the Global Compact is a practical framework for the development, implementation, and disclosure of sustainability policies and practices, offering participants a wide spectrum of work streams, management tools and resources — all designed to help advance sustainable business models and markets.

For more information see www.unglobalcompact.org

The Ten Principles

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact are derived from a set of universal declarations including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organisation’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the UN Convention Against Corruption.

The UN Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption:



HUMAN RIGHTS

- Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.



LABOUR

- Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
- Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.



ENVIRONMENT

- Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.



ANTI-CORRUPTION

- Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The Global Compact Cities Programme

The Global Compact Cities Programme, or Cities Programme, is the urban arm of the United Nations Global Compact. Its International Secretariat is based in Melbourne, Australia and is hosted by RMIT University. Its Executive is comprised of the Cities Programme Director and Deputy Director and the Head of Local Networks from the Global Compact Office, New York.

To advance the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption, we work with cities and regions and partners to progress social equity and justice, environmental sustainability and good governance in the urban environment.

The Cities Programme works to advance the Global Compact and the Ten Principles in cities and regions through:

- **Networking** to transfer knowledge and practice.
- **Creating** new knowledge to underpin the progress of cities and regions.
- **Enabling** effective action through capacity building and cross-sectoral collaboration.
- **Supporting** planning, monitoring and reporting activities.
- **Communicating** the achievements of cities and regions.

The Cities Programme was founded on a platform of collaboration between government, the private sector and civil society, originally termed the Melbourne Model.

Engaging with the Cities Programme

All cities commence their participation in the Cities Programme with a commitment to uphold the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact by becoming a signatory participant. This is based on the highest level city leader submitting a letter to the UN Secretary-General. A city can either progress to being recognised as a Leading City and/or Innovating City over time or commence the deeper engagement at the time of initial commitment.

Signatory

Cities and regions enter the UN Global Compact as signatories. To become a signatory to the Global Compact, the most senior representative of city, municipal or state government addresses a letter of commitment to the UN Secretary General that is submitted with an online to the Global Compact.

The organisation also commits to Communicate on Engagement (CoE) biannually. Each city and region is given a dedicated web page at www.citiesprogramme.org/cities.

Active

Cities and regions then become active in their commitment to the Global Compact, advancing the Ten Principles in their sphere of influence and in their capacity as city leaders. They promote their commitment through their corporate and public communications, with use of the logo and by encouraging other organisations to participate in the Compact. They should begin linking city strategies and goals to the Ten Principles, communicate their achievements in news features and prepare to Communicate on Engagement, a mandatory reporting requirement.

Active cities and regions are given the option to contribute financially to the administration of the Cities Programme, and for this are able to access tailored services which include:

- Support in setting objectives and reporting on progress in relation to the Ten Principles.
- Access to Cities Programme interns.
- Access to expert advice in issue areas.
- Opportunity to engage Cities Programme researchers in projects and to receive independent project evaluation.
- Feature in Cities Programme publications.
- Discounted entry to training and networking events.

Leading

Cities or regions at the Leading level have a dedicated plan with a holistic, integrated approach which sets goals related to the Ten Principles and has measurable outcomes and impacts across social equity and justice, environmental sustainability, fair work and good governance. A specific three-year plan of activities is dedicated to the Global Compact.

The International Secretariat provides a framework for the plan, project development and progress evaluation and the format for reporting. A range of implementation services are available to the city. There is a financial contribution for this level.

Leading level cities and regions are conscious of their roles as civic leaders and global citizens and also work to improve the knowledge and practice of other cities and regions. They actively and meaningfully engage their citizens and other stakeholders in their planning and projects.

Innovating

Cities at the Innovating level carry out three-year, innovative projects utilising the Melbourne Model. They address a complex or seemingly intractable issue or set of issues with a multi-year project that is supported by a cross-sectoral group comprising government, business and civil society. There are clear monitoring and evaluation and reporting processes, which are supported by the International Secretariat. There is a financial contribution for this level.

Innovating projects have a transformative quality and contribute to innovative practice across the Global Compact Cities Programme network.

Cities Programme Support

The Cities Programme is also supported by a number of individuals and external organisations.

Cities Programme Strategic Partners

These organisations are signatories to the UN Global Compact and have formal partnerships with the Cities Programme based around mutual interests in articulation and action on the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. Strategic partners collaborate with the Cities Programme on projects that of international benefit that progress social equity and justice, environmental sustainability and good governance in the urban environment.

Cities Programme Interns

The Cities Programme has a stellar internship program that attracts talented, high calibre post-graduate students and early career urban professionals from across the globe. Our interns undertake specialist research projects supervised by urban experts. Their engagement is

generally from 6 to 12 months and their placement can be onsite with Global Compact cities, in the Melbourne office of the International Secretariat or a combination of both.

Global Advisors

These are champions and expert friends to the Cities Programme who actively promote the UN Global Compact, encourage new cities to participate and are available to share expertise with city participants. They also at times collaborate on partnership projects to the benefit of the Cities Programme and city participants and to the advancement of social equity and justice, environmental sustainability and good governance in the urban environment.

Urban Scholars

Urban Scholars are a dedicated group of academic scholars whose expertise is available to city participants, partners and interns. They provide advice and guidance on the development of research projects, monitoring and evaluation. Cities Programme Urban Scholars have specific disciplinary knowledge connected to the urban environment, and skills and experience in inter-disciplinary problem solving for cities. They are active in applied research. They collaborate and work with external bodies such as the public sector, NGOs and business.

Innovating Centres

Innovating Centres are education and research institutes that collaborate with the Cities Programme in areas such as research, policy development, education and capacity development, tools and monitoring and evaluation systems. This is to the benefit of Global Compact participant cities and/or the broader advancement of social equity and justice, environmental sustainability and good governance in the urban environment.

Global Compact Local Networks

The Cities Programme works in close collaboration with a number of Global Compact Local Networks to advance the Global Compact and foster greater partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society in the urban context. City participants are encouraged to participate in their region's Global Compact Network.

RMIT University

RMIT is a global university of technology and design, headquartered in Melbourne, Australia and has been an active institutional member of ProSPER.Net since 2009.

RMIT's research focuses on solving critical global problems in collaboration with governments, industries, other universities and communities. Academic experts at RMIT are working with industry partners to deliver innovative research outcomes focused on five key areas: Designing the Future, Health and Lifestyle, The Future of Cities, Smart Technology Solutions and Sustainability and Climate Change.

RMIT has a particularly strong research programme in sustainable cities through two Research Institutes for Global Cities and Design. Two key focus areas of research are climate change adaptation in cities and affordable housing. RMIT urban researchers take a strong regional approach, focusing on cities in the Asia Pacific region and through partnerships with UN Habitat, UNEP, UNESCO, AusAID, UNICEF and the Cities Programme.