

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Thijs Bosker and Drs. Roos Kolkman (alumni and unplastic.me)
Title of clinic:	Unplastic.me: development of an online platform that shares educational material to increase awareness about plastic waste and pollution
Number of students:	2-3
Major (<i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i>):	Any
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	A passion for education and reducing the impact of plastic pollution on the environment!

Research context

How can we get children to change their behavior, and reduce plastic pollution? Can educating kids actually be a way to reduce plastic pollution in communities? How can we integrate the education on plastic pollution within the already existing school curriculums? How to reach schools and students in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia or the Philippines, as these are major contributors to plastic pollution? And what are effective ways to get students aware of the situation and excited to make a change in their communities?

These are some of the questions I want to address together with a group of motivated students. As most of you know plastic pollution is an issue of global concern. On an annual basis over 8 billion kg of plastic enter our oceans. In addition, microplastics (pieces of plastic <5mm) are omnipresent in the environment. It is especially important to educate children on this topic: How children and young people are parented, educated, socialized, and supported by various institutions and services has major repercussions for their development into adulthood and their behavior as adults. Therefore, educating and empowering young people in their formative years is an effective way to attain positive behavioral change, which will have the potential to change the future of their and our communities for the better. For this reason I want to develop lesson plans on plastic pollution.

The final deliverable are lesson plans on plastic pollution for schools, but the content will be dependent on you and the team we work in. Will it be an online app? Will it be instructions for an art project? Will we make videos? Will we make students go out and collect plastics in their community for a citizen science project? Will we make them do an outreach project?

A passion to create awareness on plastic pollution is key. Even if you don't yet know all the final details about it. Besides the creation of modules, skills such as social media marketing, or creative/web/app design/, or video making will also be very beneficial. In your application, highlight your skills and how you think it can help unplastic.me

In the end, our deliverables need to provide materials for both teachers and students. They need to motivate participants, they need to be fun, but they also need to get them thinking about their community and themselves. We are looking forward to your ideas and creativity on these topics.