

It's true: *This is NOT a vacation for a week.* And it is not for the feint-hearted. In all truthfulness, it is the most intense and honest feedback I have ever had – bar none. Moreover, the Sustainability Academy was the best academic and personal development week of my life!

I feel very privileged to have been selected to participate – I wonder if I will ever be able to repay the assistance, the learning, and the personal development coaching I received from the scholars and peers that came to London for the week.

The time is dedicated to scholar boot-camp, group identification work, and professional identity development. The program, while catering to the entire group, is still somehow very customized to the needs of each member. And the level of involvement of the faculty was unprecedented in my experience, and my committee members are pretty involved with my program.

The range of the backgrounds represented in the peer group is very enriching. I am accustomed to interacting with business scholars almost exclusively, and I am grateful for the opportunity to connect with others from varied academic fields, and from various stages of the PhD journey.

Research in sustainability can be a lonely venture. A recent graduate from Ivey said it best one day when we were interacting with a panel of faculty in a question period... “I found my people.” That is exactly how I felt by the end of the week. I found my people at ARCS PhD Academy. And I am forever indebted to the organizing committee for helping me to find them.

Come find your people!

Stephanie Berger, McGill