



## Work Based Masters Projects Computing Science and Mathematics

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Students on our MSc. programs all carry out a three month dissertation project from June to August, at the end of their studies. It can be of great benefit to the students if their project involves working on a project for an external organisation. This document explains the process of providing a work based project for one of our students.

### How do the Projects Work?

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Students can carry out a project in partnership with an external organisation. This might be in industry, public sector or the third sector, for example. Projects can take the form of internships (paid or unpaid) where the student works at the partner organisation or consultancy style work where the student has regular meetings with the partner but carries out the work at the University. All students are supervised by a member of academic staff and are expected to be able to visit the University several times during the project to receive supervision.

### What are the Students Studying?

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We have MSc. programmes in Big Data, Mathematics for Data Science and Fintech. The students have varied backgrounds – some have only recently graduated from their first degree and some are returning to education having already been in work. They study programming, data analytics, databases, machine learning, maths and statistics. Fintech students also take modules in finance.

### What about the Intellectual Property?

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Partner organisations agree IP rights with the student, but in general the rights sit with the organisation. Students and staff are also happy to sign NDAs and the final report written by the student does not need to be published. It is marked by two members of staff at the University, however.

## How do I Engage?

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We advertise projects to students in the spring (from February to May). You can choose whether you would like interested students to approach you directly or whether you would like us to vet them first. The appointment process is up to you, as are any contract or payment you might want to include. If you would like to engage a student on a project over the summer, simply email us a short (one or two paragraphs) description of the project. Tell us whether you will be able to pay the student and whether you require them to work at your place of work.

Alternatively, there is a form you can complete by following the link from here;

<http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/IAB/>

You can email Kevin Swingler: [kms@cs.stir.ac.uk](mailto:kms@cs.stir.ac.uk)