



Careers Service.

Offering a project

If your organisation has a business problem or challenge, offering a project can be a great way to find a solution by utilising talent at the University of Sheffield.

Projects can be offered to students in a number of ways which will enable you to harness fresh ideas and enthusiasm and benefit from discipline-specific knowledge and expertise that might not otherwise be available to you. At the same time you are enabling students to apply what they are learning in a real world context.

Employing a student or graduate to work on your project

Offering work to students whilst they are studying or graduates seeking work after completing their studies can be a great way for you to access expertise for your project.

Projects can last any duration and be offered to students on a part-time basis during term-time, a full-time basis during vacations or a 12-month placement, or offered to graduates as a fixed-term graduate job. They can be aimed at particular disciplines or open to any subject. In most cases 12-month placements are offered to undergraduate students at the end of their 2nd year but shorter projects or those which can be completed on a part-time basis can be offered to students at any level.

A student or graduate would be employed by you for the duration of your project and would be based at your business premises. You would need to pay them at least minimum wage, unless your project lasts less than 2 weeks or your organisation is a registered charity. 12-month placements can legally be offered on an unpaid basis but we would strongly recommend that you pay a salary as this can adversely affect interest in your role. We occasionally have access to funding which can help you cover these costs.

Please note that for part-time work, we do not recommend that undergraduate students work more than 16 hours per week during term-time to ensure that they can balance this with their studies.

Offering a project as part of a course

Students can work with your organisation on a particular issue or challenge, guided by the University, as part of their course.

These opportunities vary from one academic department to another. Some seek projects that can be offered to undergraduate students whilst others look for those suitable for postgraduate students. Projects may be required for students in a specific year group and there are variations in timeframes and durations depending on the course. For example, some departments seek dissertation projects for students which undergraduate students work on between October and April and postgraduate students work on between February and September.

There is no cost to organisations wishing to offer a project via this route, however, we do ask that travel and expenses are reimbursed to students. Some organisations choose to pay students for undertaking a project, however, this is not an expectation.

All students will have an academic supervisor who is there to make sure the project is meeting academic requirements and to monitor the student's development. Academic departments are also on hand to provide support and advice to you, as the host organisation, throughout the duration of the project.

Areas of expertise

We offer a broad range of courses at first degree and postgraduate degree level and our students study in five faculties: Engineering, Science, Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities and Medicine, Dentistry & Health. Check the University's searchable online prospectus for a full list of courses and module content to identify which course may be most appropriate for your project.

Practical things to consider

- You will need to dedicate time to supporting the student and this may vary depending upon the type of project you put forward. A student will need an accessible point of contact within your organisation to support them throughout the duration of the project.
- Providing desk space for the student is recommended to help them feel part of your organisation and understand your organisation's culture. If they are working on a project as part of their course, they may only need to visit your premises a few times.
- Students may need access to information and other resources within your organisation to help them complete their project.
- Ensure that your project is achievable and realistic in the timeframe specified.
- Projects should be pitched at the right level for a current student so that you can make effective use of the expertise available and provide students with a piece of work that will challenge them. However, be mindful that they are still learning.
- If your project is offered to students as part of their course, your organisation's confidentiality will be respected throughout the process; and you will have the opportunity to agree arrangements for Intellectual Property.

How to submit a project

Please provide a brief outline of your project, using our [Project Proposal Form](#). We will then look at your needs and contact you to discuss the most appropriate solution.

We are unable to guarantee that all project opportunities will be taken up by students or be considered suitable by academic departments, however, we will liaise with academic departments and make recommendations for adjustments to your project specification, as appropriate.

