



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Careers Service

Finding an MSc project in industry

(and applicable to finding a graduate job!)

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Inspiring futures



Today...

- Finding organisations
- Approaching organisations
- Following up
- Further support



Industry projects: a further benefit

- Rosie has outlined key benefits
- Now an extra one: **practice for graduate job hunt**

How so?

- The **same employers** who recruit graduates might be able to provide you with an interesting MSc!
 - A chance to...
 - learn who they are / research them
 - practice applying
- => Improve your employment chances on graduation



Low
Risk!

Deciding who to target

- Do you have areas of interest from your studies?
- Have you worked in an industry previously?
- Are you interested in particular sectors?

Areas of focus in Scotland: electronics, energy (esp. renewables and oil/gas); **finance***, games; life sciences; IT ...

Also NHS, manufacturing, marketing

www.talentscotland.com

- Who regularly recruits OR graduates?

* Not all finance companies are connected to SFRA



Finding organisations



Project (job) hunting approaches

1. Reactive

- See an advertisement
- Apply.

Need: to get a list

- ✓ You know there is an opportunity...
- ✗ ...but so do all the others who saw it!

2. Proactive

- Nothing is advertised
- Phone and ask
- or apply speculatively

Need to create your own list

- ✓ You might be the only applicant;
- ✓ they were about to hire.
- ✗ They may not have anything. Really.

Reactive hunting: 'get a list'

[MyCareerHub](#)

[eFinancial Careers](#)

[TARGETjobs](#)

[Prospects](#)

[Inside Careers](#)

[Gradcracker](#)

[STEM Graduates](#)

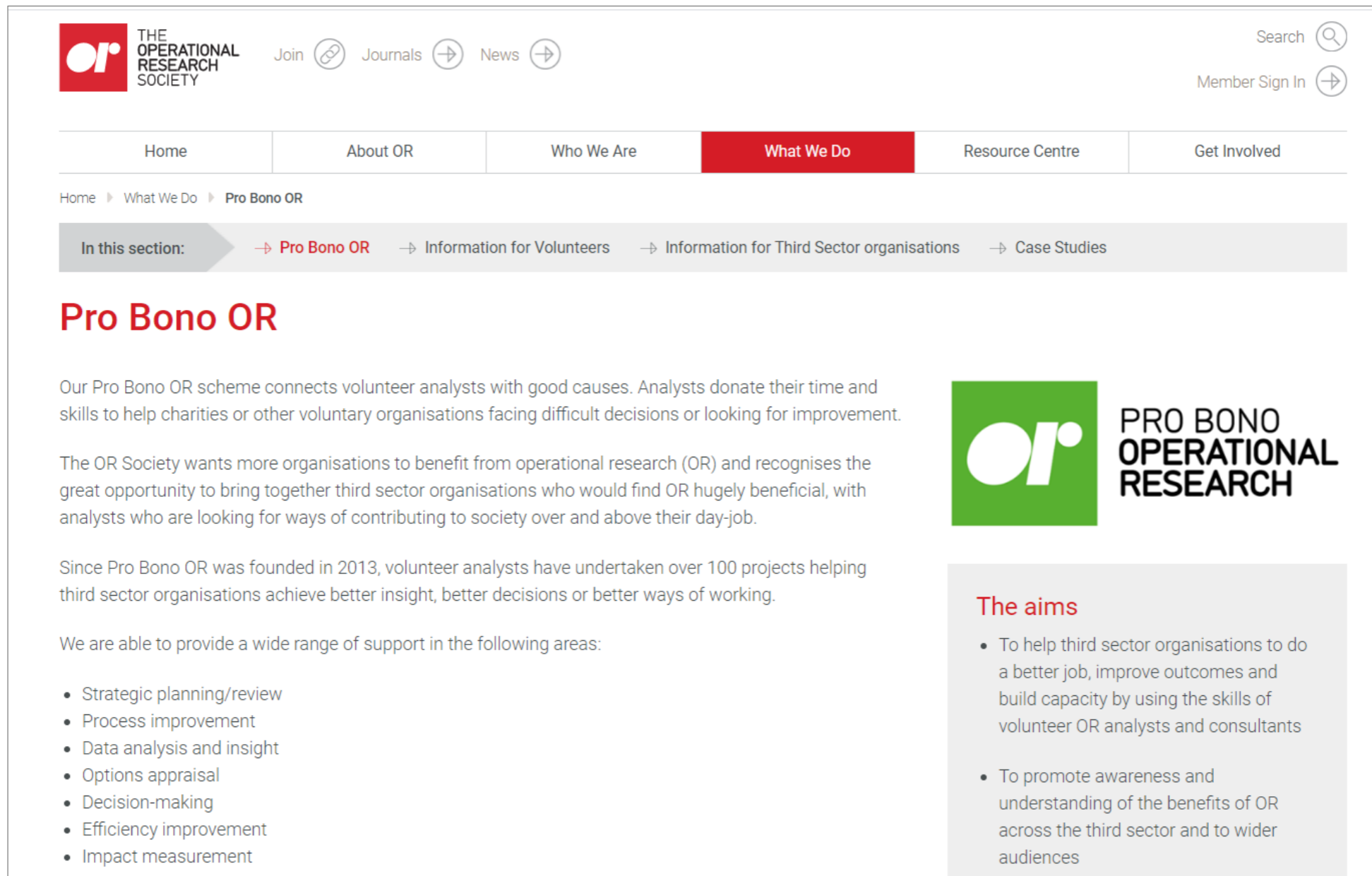
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These job sites list graduate recruiters... who *might* be able to use you to do a project for your MSc?



OR Society 'pro-bono' projects?



The screenshot shows the website for The Operational Research Society. The top navigation bar includes the logo, 'Join', 'Journals', and 'News'. A search bar and 'Member Sign In' are on the right. The main navigation menu has 'Home', 'About OR', 'Who We Are', 'What We Do' (highlighted), 'Resource Centre', and 'Get Involved'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home > What We Do > Pro Bono OR'. A secondary navigation bar lists 'In this section: Pro Bono OR', 'Information for Volunteers', 'Information for Third Sector organisations', and 'Case Studies'. The main heading is 'Pro Bono OR'. The text describes the scheme connecting volunteer analysts with good causes. It states the OR Society wants more organisations to benefit from operational research. It mentions that since Pro Bono OR was founded in 2013, volunteer analysts have undertaken over 100 projects. A list of support areas includes strategic planning, process improvement, data analysis, options appraisal, decision-making, efficiency improvement, and impact measurement. A box titled 'The aims' lists two goals: helping third sector organisations do a better job and promoting awareness of OR.

THE OPERATIONAL RESEARCH SOCIETY

Join Journals News

Search Member Sign In

Home About OR Who We Are **What We Do** Resource Centre Get Involved

Home > What We Do > Pro Bono OR

In this section: → **Pro Bono OR** → Information for Volunteers → Information for Third Sector organisations → Case Studies

Pro Bono OR

Our Pro Bono OR scheme connects volunteer analysts with good causes. Analysts donate their time and skills to help charities or other voluntary organisations facing difficult decisions or looking for improvement.

The OR Society wants more organisations to benefit from operational research (OR) and recognises the great opportunity to bring together third sector organisations who would find OR hugely beneficial, with analysts who are looking for ways of contributing to society over and above their day-job.

Since Pro Bono OR was founded in 2013, volunteer analysts have undertaken over 100 projects helping third sector organisations achieve better insight, better decisions or better ways of working.

We are able to provide a wide range of support in the following areas:

- Strategic planning/review
- Process improvement
- Data analysis and insight
- Options appraisal
- Decision-making
- Efficiency improvement
- Impact measurement

PRO BONO OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

The aims

- To help third sector organisations to do a better job, improve outcomes and build capacity by using the skills of volunteer OR analysts and consultants
- To promote awareness and understanding of the benefits of OR across the third sector and to wider audiences

www.theorsociety.com/what-we-do/pro-bono-or/

Proactive job hunting: 'make a list!'

- Where have past graduates gone to work?
- Use MyCareerHub creatively!
- Use LinkedIn creatively





MyCareerHub

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Search Opportunities

operational

Type Of Work

- Any
- Graduate - immediate start
- Graduate - future start
- Internship/ placement

Location

- Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom
- Any United Kingdom International

Find Opportunities

Contract Type

- Temporary Permanent

Contract Hours

- Casual Full-time Part-time

Employer Industry

- Any
- Accountancy, banking and finance
- Animals, plants and agriculture
- Armed forces and emergency services

Occupation

- Any
- Accountancy, banking and finance
- Animal and plant Resources
- Business, consulting and management

- Only include Opportunities from Employers I follow
- Include expired Opportunities

Bookmarked Opportunities

⬆️ Fewer Search Options

Found 605 Opportunities with the words operational

Relevance ▾

Fast Stream: Government Operational Research Service (expired)
Government Operational Research Service (GORS)

- 📍 United Kingdom
- 📍 Leeds
- 📍 Liverpool
- 📍 Manchester
- 📍 Newcastle upon Tyne
- 📍 Newport
- 📍 Sheffield

Search Employers

Quick Search



Enterprise Rent-a-Car

At Enterprise Rent-A-Car we offer a management trainee programme

RSS Statisticians for Society?

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the RSS website. The URL in the address bar is https://www.rss.org.uk/RSS/Get_involved/Statisticians_for_Society/RSS/Get_involved/Statisticians_for_Society.aspx?hkey=c7977c58-1558-495a-9e5a-e99d64ea9cfd. The page features the Royal Statistical Society logo (DATA | EVIDENCE | DECISIONS) and a navigation menu with options like Membership, Professional Development, Events, Get Involved, Influencing Change, Publications, Training, and About. The 'Get Involved' section is expanded, showing a sidebar with 'Statisticians for Society' selected. The main content area includes the title 'Statisticians for Society', a description of the program, and the 'COMMUNITY FUND' logo. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 29/01/2020 and the time as 15:22.

https://www.rss.org.uk/RSS/Get_involved/Statisticians_for_Society/

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Think about your existing network



The wider network...



Based on [6 degrees of separation!](#)

- Alumni?
- People search: who do/have they work(ed) for?
- Join groups
- Jobs advertised

Check out sessions run by the Careers Service.




ed.ac.uk/careers/students/postgraduates/pgts/become-professional/develop-your-network-and-build-your-profile

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Schools & departments MyEd

Search

Ask a student



CAREERS SERVICE

Careers Service home

- Students
- Postgraduates
- Taught postgraduates

Become professional

- Communicate appropriately
- Develop your network and build your profile**
- Be resilient
- Handle pressure

Home > Careers > Students > Postgraduates > Taught postgraduates > Become professional > Develop your network and build your profile [Contact us](#)

Develop your network and build your profile

An introduction to networking, building your profile and tips on how you can develop.

You already have a network. This may include your classmates and lecturers, your friends and their families, your family and your employer. Building on this so your network extends into areas of professional interest is the next step.

Why is networking important?

- networking is all about showing an interest in what people do (it's not about asking someone for a job). It's a great way to get a sense of what interests you and what you might be suited to by finding out about different job roles and getting insight into companies
- networking should be reciprocal - you can make useful contacts who might be able to help you and in turn you can help others
- talking to people in this way is also part of building your profile. Professional, well-informed conversations where your interest clearly comes

Change cookie settings

13:53 09/02/2021

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Careers in Tech & Data fair – tomorrow!



 THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Careers Service

TECH & DATA CAREERS DAY

Wednesday 10th February 2021

Featuring Tech & Data Careers Fair Online, 12pm - 4pm

Opportunities for all – no matter what you study. Discover what's out there and challenge your thinking – there's more to careers in tech & data than you may think.

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Sponsored by:
FreeAgent

<https://www.hub.ed.ac.uk/students/events/Detail/750686>

Approaching organisations



Benefits to the host organisation?

i.e. how to sell it to them!

- Employ the expertise of a postgraduate student (with supervision) from the University of Edinburgh – at no cost!
- May offer a solution to a problem they've been unable to address due to lack of time / resource.
- Possibly use as a low-risk recruitment method
- Build links with the University
- Anything else?



Why might they be reluctant?

- Unsure of what you can offer (what OR is!)
- Time commitment
- “Babysitting”
- Expectation of a job they cannot provide at the end?
- Anything else?

What can you say to address these concerns?





THE OR SOCIETY

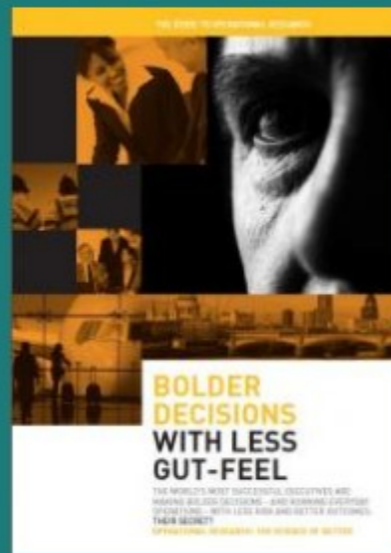
OPERATIONAL RESEARCH
THE SCIENCE OF BETTER

WELCOME!

This site will tell you what **Operational Research (O.R.)** is and how it can help you to improve your organisation.

Operational Research (O.R.), is the discipline of applying appropriate analytical methods to help those who run organisations make better decisions. It's a 'real world' discipline with a focus on *improving* the complex systems and processes that underpin everybody's daily lives - **O.R.** is the 'science of better'.

- About O.R.
- Success Stories
- How-To Guides
- O.R. Professional Search
- Resources
- Glossary
- Contact



Our Executive Guide to O.R.

How to make bolder decisions with less gut feel

[Click here to download](#)

Effective Collections through Stronger Customer Relationships.

KeyBank, one of the largest financial services companies in the US, needed to improve collections performance and custom



HOW CAN O.R. HELP YOU?

O.R. can help any business with its decision making. Here's how.

Whatever kind of problem or opportunity you face, there's probably a way for O.R.



View the Science of Better movie

See how British Airways, Crown Paint, Tata Steel and Asda use O.R. to drive business success.

Nick Donofrio

Senior Vice President, Technology and Manufacturing IBM

"Operational research professionals are the key to harnessing the opportunity created by e-business and deep computing."



THE OR SOCIETY

Social Media Feeds

The OR Society @TheORSociety

RT @Phillips32Tim: @drvinceknight @TheORSociety @timreisoccam will be there too

20 Nov 15



Making the Approach

- Get a named contact
 - Telephone to ask
 - Use LinkedIn
 - Company website (if small)
- Email or post your letter?
- Get in touch soon after to see if received
- Follow-up after a few weeks to get feedback
- **Always** ask for another contact / lead

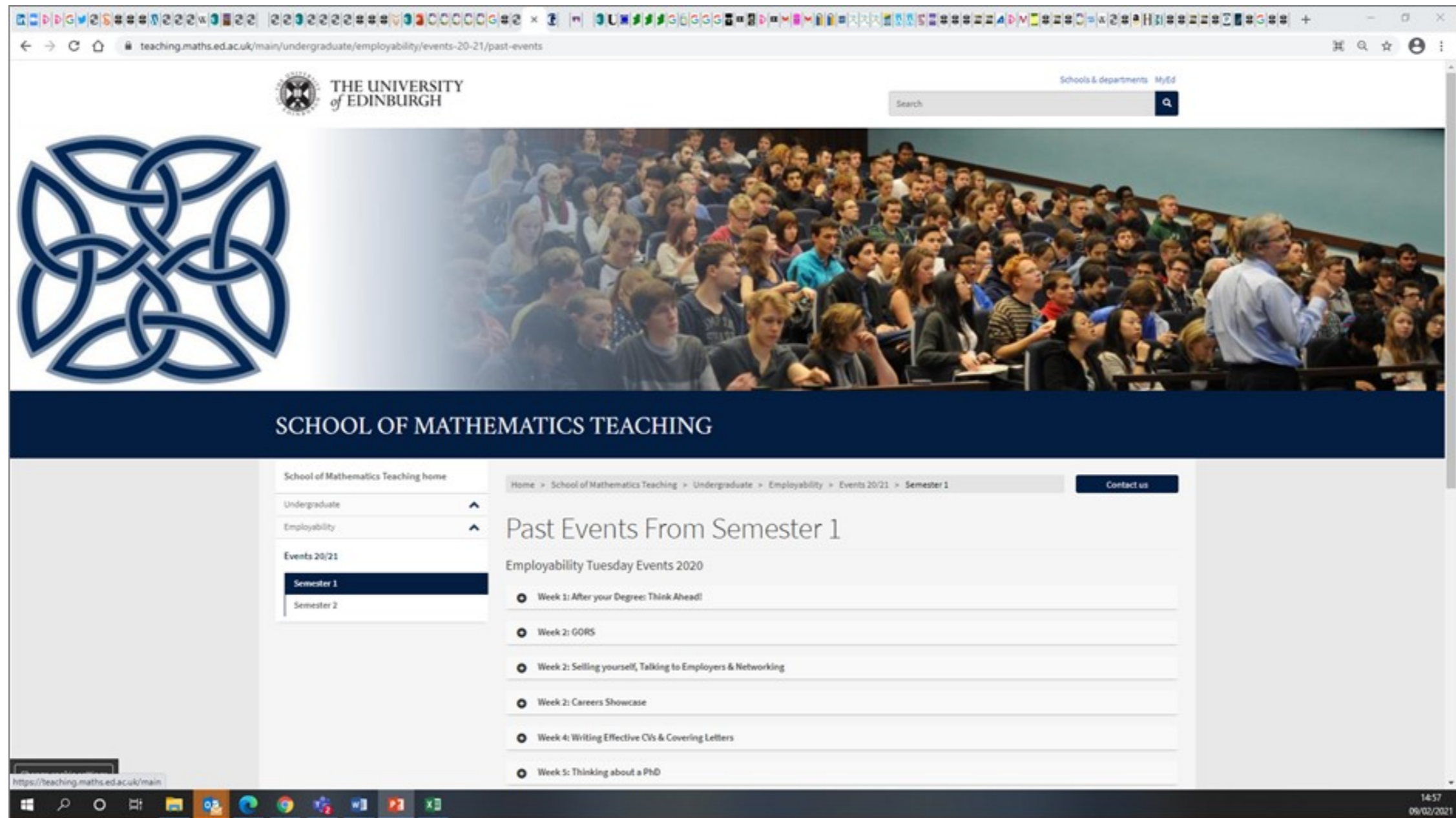


Your letter (email)

- **Why you're writing:** who you are, what you're offering them
- **Why this sector + OR:** description of your project and how it can benefit them
- **Why them** (company/organisation) in particular
- **Why you:** Your relevant experience, to date
- How to take things forward
- (if sending electronically insert links to relevant information)



If they ask for a CV?



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the University of Edinburgh's School of Mathematics Teaching website. The page is titled "Past Events From Semester 1" and lists several employability events from 2020. The navigation menu on the left includes "School of Mathematics Teaching home", "Undergraduate", "Employability", and "Events 20/21". The "Events 20/21" section is expanded to show "Semester 1" and "Semester 2". The "Semester 1" section lists the following events:

- Week 1: After your Degree: Think Ahead!
- Week 2: GORS
- Week 2: Selling yourself, Talking to Employers & Networking
- Week 2: Careers Showcase
- Week 4: Writing Effective CVs & Covering Letters
- Week 5: Thinking about a PhD

The website also features a search bar, a "Contact us" button, and a breadcrumb trail: Home > School of Mathematics Teaching > Undergraduate > Employability > Events 20/21 > Semester 1. The University of Edinburgh logo and a large image of a lecture hall are visible at the top of the page.

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<https://teaching.maths.ed.ac.uk/main/undergraduate/employability/events-20-21/past-events>

