



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Careers Service

Ideas for finding an MSc project in industry

(and applicable to finding a graduate job!)

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Engineering & Mathematics

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Today...

- Why do a project in industry?
- Researching your sector
- Approaching organisations
- Following up
- Further support



What are the benefits to you?

- You may prefer a more applied project? Uni ones can be quite theoretical
- Build your networks
- Employers *may* recruit students who have already worked for them
- Excellent experience for your CV / discuss at interview
- Show you can work (in the UK / gain a UK reference)
- Practice for graduate job hunt
=> Improve your employment chances on graduation



Benefits to the host organisation?

i.e. how to sell it to them!

- Utilise the expertise of a postgraduate student (with supervision) from the University of Edinburgh!
- 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?



FREE!

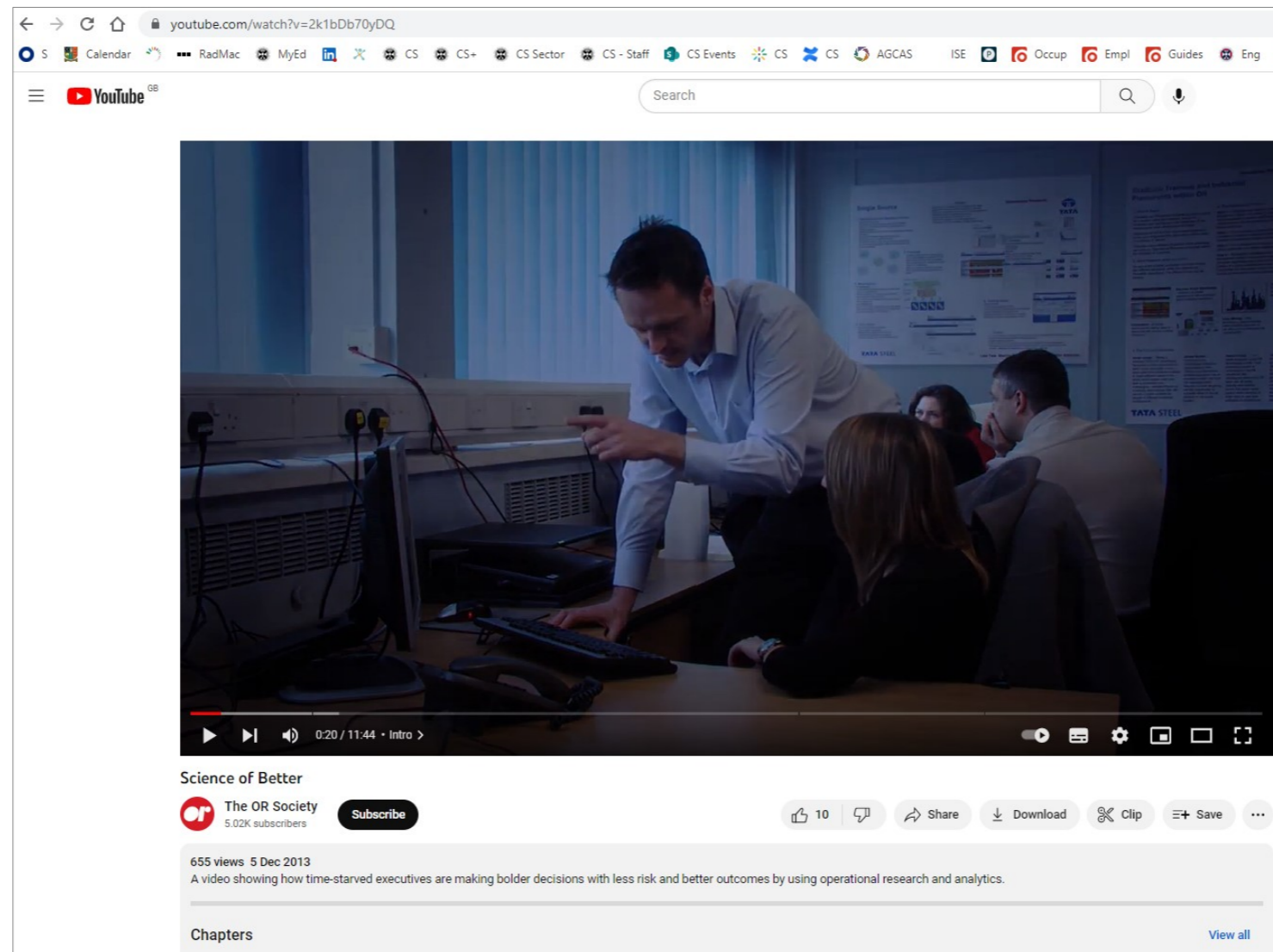


Why might they be reluctant?

- Unsure of what you do / how it can help them (esp. OR)



OR Society: “The Science of Better” video



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2k1bDb70yDQ>


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11 min 44secs



Example points to make in correspondence

- Do you have a large dataset (e.g. customers, performance, outcomes, supply, demand etc.) that needs analysing to gain intelligence?
- Do you need to find smarter ways to work?
- Do you need data analysed for reporting purposes?
- Are you looking to find an optimum solution to a problem of adequate time vs. resource? (e.g. logistics)



Translate your
skills in a way
that makes
sense to them

Why might they be reluctant?

- Unsure of what you do / how it can help them (esp. OR)
- Time commitment
- “Babysitting”
- Expectation of a job they cannot provide at the end?
- Anything else?

What can you say to address these concerns?



RSS Statisticians for Society?

ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

Membership | News and Publications | Training and events | Policy and campaigns | Jobs and careers | Resources

Sign in | Join

IN THIS SECTION

- Statisticians for Society
 - Charities looking for statistician
 - Information for volunteers
 - Case studies
- Volunteer with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)
- Volunteer profiles
- Find a volunteering opportunity
- Volunteer as a charity trustee
- Other pro bono opportunities
- Guidelines for RSS volunteers

Statisticians for Society



Information for organisations

Information for volunteers

Search stats

Case studies



RSS
STATISTICIANS
FOR SOCIETY

Supported by:
COMMUNITY FUND

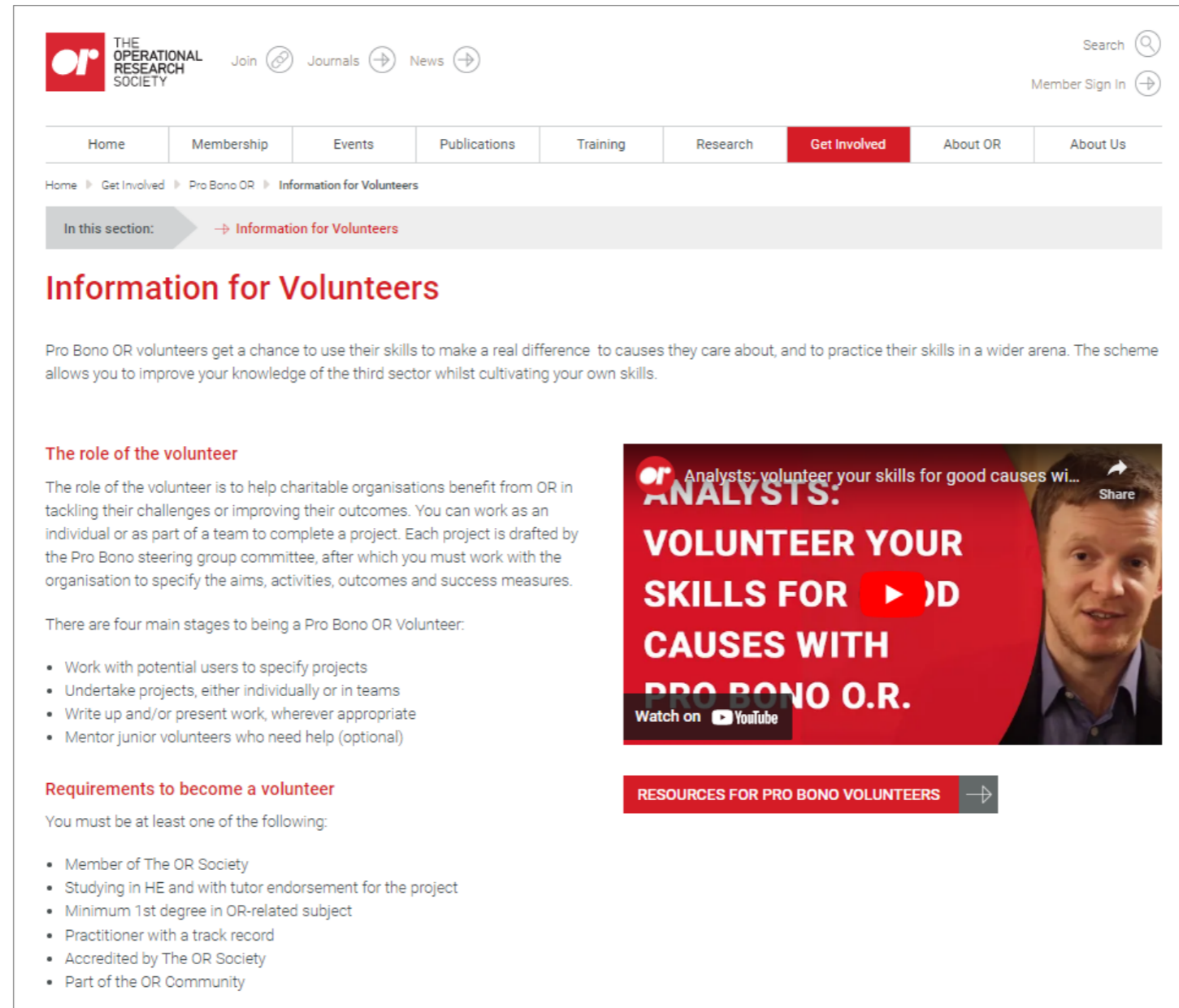
Statisticians for Society is a *pro bono* scheme that connects professional statisticians and charitable organisations. Originally launched as a pilot project in 2017, the scheme has become an effective way for organisations to receive support from statistical experts at no cost. Our volunteer statisticians have been linked with over 60 organisations, helping them fulfil their charitable aims and objectives.

[Read case studies of previous projects](#)

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

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OR Society 'pro-bono' projects?



The screenshot shows the website for The Operational Research Society. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Membership, Events, Publications, Training, Research, Get Involved (highlighted), About OR, and About Us. A search bar and a Member Sign In link are also present. The main content area is titled 'Information for Volunteers' and includes a sub-section 'In this section: → Information for Volunteers'. The text describes the role of a volunteer and lists requirements to become one. A video player is embedded on the right side of the page, showing a man speaking and the text 'ANALYSTS: VOLUNTEER YOUR SKILLS FOR GOOD CAUSES WITH PRO BONO O.R.'.

THE OPERATIONAL RESEARCH SOCIETY Join Journals News

Search Member Sign In

Home Membership Events Publications Training Research **Get Involved** About OR About Us

Home > Get Involved > Pro Bono OR > Information for Volunteers

In this section: → **Information for Volunteers**

Information for Volunteers

Pro Bono OR volunteers get a chance to use their skills to make a real difference to causes they care about, and to practice their skills in a wider arena. The scheme allows you to improve your knowledge of the third sector whilst cultivating your own skills.

The role of the volunteer

The role of the volunteer is to help charitable organisations benefit from OR in tackling their challenges or improving their outcomes. You can work as an individual or as part of a team to complete a project. Each project is drafted by the Pro Bono steering group committee, after which you must work with the organisation to specify the aims, activities, outcomes and success measures.

There are four main stages to being a Pro Bono OR Volunteer:

- Work with potential users to specify projects
- Undertake projects, either individually or in teams
- Write up and/or present work, wherever appropriate
- Mentor junior volunteers who need help (optional)

Requirements to become a volunteer

You must be at least one of the following:

- Member of The OR Society
- Studying in HE and with tutor endorsement for the project
- Minimum 1st degree in OR-related subject
- Practitioner with a track record
- Accredited by The OR Society
- Part of the OR Community

ANALYSTS: VOLUNTEER YOUR SKILLS FOR GOOD CAUSES WITH PRO BONO O.R.

Watch on YouTube

RESOURCES FOR PRO BONO VOLUNTEERS

www.theorsociety.com/get-involved/pro-bono-or/



Project (job) hunting approaches

1. Reactive

- See an advertisement
- Apply.

✓ You know there's an opportunity...

✗ ...but so do all the others who saw it!

2. Proactive

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

✓ You might be the only applicant;

✓ they were about to hire.

✗ They may not have anything. Really.



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***, technology; life sciences; ...



Also NHS, manufacturing, marketing, local/Scottish government

<https://www.sdi.co.uk/business-in-scotland/work-in-scotland/career-opportunities>

- Who attended the OR Society's [Careers Day](#)?



Reactive job hunting

- See [Prospects job profiles](#) for vacancy advice
- Check  regularly
- Opportunities from [other national OR Societies](#) / statistical societies?
- Jobs section of 



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

Come along to Are you LinkedIn (14 March, 1-2pm).




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MyCareerHub

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MyCareerHub ▾ Jobs & internships Events Find employers Send us a Question Drop-ins Talk to us ▾ Dashboard 204 Matthew ▾

Search Opportunities

Keywords

Opportunity Type

Location

More Search Options ▾

Search

Saved Opportunities

Found **156** opportunities with the words **Data** Relevance ▾

Data Engineer 📍 London

Pangaea Data Closes - 31 May 2023

As a Data Engineer, you need to be able to understand product data APIs and client data APIs so as to develop robust data integration, perform data analytics, and ensure Pangaea's product is compatible with client data environment. Knowledge in databases, data science and AI will be critical.

Data Analyst (new) 📍 Edinburgh

Research Data Scotland (RDS) Closes - 13 Feb 2023


Do you believe in the power of data and think this power should be used to improve the lives of the people living in Scotland? Yes? Research Data Scotland needs you! Now is a great time to join Research Data Scotland (RDS). We're a fast-moving, growing organisation that works with partners to make it quicker and easier to do research with public sector data in Scotland.

Search Employers

Quick Search

Search Employers

Careers in Tech & Data - Wednesday 15th February 2023



Careers in Tech & Data Fair

Wednesday 15th February 2023
12:30 - 4:00pm, McEwan Hall

Drop in to discover over 60 recruiters. Opportunities for all, no matter what you study. Search #EdTechDataCareers on socials and MyCareerHub for related content.

156 live...
 +
Immediate start?
 +
Archive?





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MyCareerHub

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MyCareerHub ▾ Jobs & internships Events Find employers Send us a Question Drop-ins Talk to us ▾ Dashboard 204 Matthew ▾

Search Organisations

Saved Organisations Featured Organisations

Keywords

Organisation name

Industry

Transport and Logistics ▾

Scope

Regional ▾

▾ More Search Options

Search

Found 26 organisations

Name - Asc ▾

Algebra Limited

An AI startup active in multi industries including food business, retail business, personal finance,

No current opportunities



Aurecon Hong Kong Limited

Headquartered in Australia, Aurecon is a leading international engineering, design, advisory company

1 current opportunity



BEAR Scotland - South East Unit

Provider of highways maintenance services across Scotland

No current opportunities



Careers in Tech & Data - Wednesday 15th February 2023

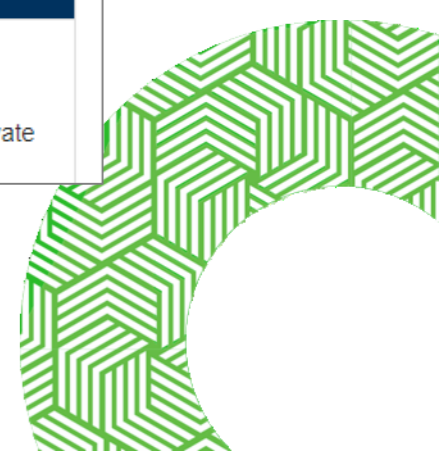


Featured Opportunity

Marketing Professional/ IR – Private Equity

Marketing Professional/ IR – Private
Equity

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Research your sector

- Careers Service website [Occupational Information](#) has lots of links within it, including links to sectoral company directories (i.e. lists!)
- Use the daily online/in-person [information drop-in](#) to speak to an Information Adviser
- Attend industry [events](#) where possible and go along to employer presentations



Ask!



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Careers in Tech & Data Fair

Wednesday 15th February 2023
McEwan Hall

Drop In to discover over 50 recruiters. Opportunities for all, no matter what you study. Search #EdTechDataCareers and MyCareerHub for related content.

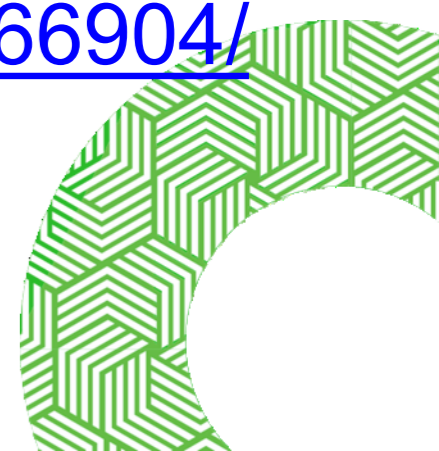
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<https://www.hub.ed.ac.uk/s/mycareerhub/events/Detail/966904/careers-in-tech-and-data-fair>

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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:** 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 webpage from the 'CAREERS SERVICE'. The main navigation bar is purple with the text 'CAREERS SERVICE' in white. Below this, there's a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Careers > CVs, Applications and Interviews Advice > CVs and covering letters'. A 'Contact us' button is visible in the top right. The left sidebar contains a menu with 'CVs and covering letters' highlighted, and sub-items: 'Quick Guide to CVs', 'Quick Guide to covering letters', 'Writing effective CVs and covering letters', and 'CV360 for instant feedback'. The main content area has the title 'CVs and covering letters' and a sub-header 'Information and advice on CVs and covering letters including CV content and style, advice on covering letters and where to find out more.' Below this are four featured sections, each with a purple header and a white body: 'Quick Guide to CVs', 'Quick Guide to covering letters', 'Writing effective CVs and covering letters', and 'CV360 for instant feedback'. At the bottom, there are social media share icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email, and a publication date: 'This article was published on 14 Oct, 2019'.

CAREERS SERVICE

Careers Service home

CVs, Applications and Interviews Advice

CVs and covering letters

- Quick Guide to CVs
- Quick Guide to covering letters
- Writing effective CVs and covering letters
- CV360 for instant feedback

Home > Careers > CVs, Applications and Interviews Advice > CVs and covering letters

Contact us

CVs and covering letters

Information and advice on CVs and covering letters including CV content and style, advice on covering letters and where to find out more.

Quick Guide to CVs

Watch our Quick Guide to CVs to get you started with the basics of writing an effective CV, including what employers are looking for, content, formatting and presentation.

Quick Guide to covering letters

Watch our Quick Guide to get you started with the basics of how to write a good covering letter, including what employers are looking for, content and formatting.

Writing effective CVs and covering letters

This section provides advice and tips on what employers are looking for, and what to consider before writing your CV and covering letter, including content and layout.

CV360 for instant feedback

Make use of CV360 to get instant feedback on your CV before booking a feedback appointment with us.

Share

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

This article was published on 14 Oct, 2019



Further Support

- [Careers Service Website](#)
- Feedback on your draft CV and letter

Drop-in (JCMB) 12.30-14.30 Mondays*

Book 30-min appointment online



* Teaching weeks only

