

Consultancy projects – MSc in Statistics with Data Science

Background

The School of Mathematics runs an MSc programme in Statistics and Data Science and a major part of this programme is the summer consultancy-style projects. This involves 20 to 30 students working full-time on the same project for 5 weeks. Students carry out two projects, the first commencing at the end of May, and the second in early July.

This provides an opportunity for collaboration between our students and an external collaborator who provides the data and question of interest. This gives external collaborators access to talented MSc students and, because each project is under supervision with academic staff from the Statistics Group and the Statistical Consultancy Unit, this can provide a simple mechanism for organisations and other academic groups to start interacting with the Statistics group on research issues. There is no financial commitment; all we ask for is some of your time to help specify the project and access to relevant data, as well as your availability (physically or virtually) to give a short presentation at the start of the project and answer data questions at the first drop in session. Each student writes an individual report and does a presentation on a project of their choice, and we encourage external collaborators to attend these presentations. The students will be asked for their permission to share their reports with the external partners, and the academic instructors will forward the best reports to the collaborator. The students' reports may then go towards assisting the collaborator in analysing data and improving current practices.

We ask that you share data with non-disclosure for educational purposes, if not we may be able to discuss the relevant parameters with our business development officer. In general, students are told to not share and delete the data.

We explain below the timetable of these summer projects. If you would like to discuss any details, please contact us.

Timetable

The indicative timetable is below (items relevant to external collaborators as highlighted in blue):

- **20 January:** [Deadline for initial project descriptions](#) (max 1 page) and datasets to be submitted.
- **February:** Projects finalised and staff are allocated to supervise each project.
- **March:** All projects are promoted to MSc students.
- **Early April:** Deadline for student expressions of interest.
- **End April:** Students are matched to projects.
- **Mid May:** Background material provided to the students for the first set of projects.
- **27 May - 28 June:** First set of projects, with an [initial kick-off meeting with the collaborator](#) to describe the problem and data and weekly drop-in sessions with academic staff (the collaborator is welcome to participate in these).

- **28 June:** Submission deadline for the first set of projects.
- **29 June - 6 July:** Break
- **Mid June:** Background material provided for the second set of projects.
- **8 July - 9 August:** Second set of projects, with an [initial kick-off meeting with the collaborator](#) to describe the problem and data and weekly drop-in sessions with academic staff (the collaborator is welcome to participate).
- **9 August:** Submission deadline for the second set of projects.
- **14 August:** Submission deadline for posters.
- **19 August:** Poster presentation.