What is the Making the Most of Masters approach?

Making the Most of Masters is a strategic collaboration between employers, universities, enterprise agencies, and postgraduate Masters levels students to disseminate the MMM model of credit-bearing Work Based Projects as an alternative to a traditional Masters dissertation. The projects are solution focused and address real research needs within an organisation.

A Work Based Project (WBP) is a Masters level project which is undertaken in collaboration with an organisation. WBPs may be based primarily onsite (the student works at the organisation) or offsite (the student is based at their university doing research on behalf of the organisation).

How It Works

Projects typically take place over an 8-16 week period and may involve the student being based full time within the organisation or having a series of meetings. There is a degree of flexibility within projects, so all aspects can be discussed and tailored on an individual basis. This includes:

- **Project Proposals**
  Organisations submit a Project Proposal which are refined and developed in consultation between the organisation and an appropriate academic member of staff.

- **Student Selection**
  There are a number of possible routes to select and match students and we will work with you through this process.

- **Project Agreements**
  We provide guidance to ensure the expectations of all parties are clearly understood. This includes issues relating to project deliverables, intellectual property, and confidentiality.

- **Work Based Project Staff Support**
  All students have a university supervisor in addition to an organisation supervisor to help oversee the project.

- **Financial Implications**
  The project forms part of the students' degree assessment, so a salary payment is not required. Organisations are expected to pay reasonable expenses.

The Benefits

The project aims to provide real benefits to employers, universities and postgraduate Masters students. These are just some of the reasons to get involved:

- **Greater Links Between Industry and Universities**
  The MMM project offers an ideal opportunity to work together, sharing knowledge and expertise that can lead to consultancy, CPD and knowledge transfer opportunities.

- **Cost Effective**
  The project forms part of the degree assessment, so the student do not require payment (though discretionary payments and expenses are not uncommon).

- **Corporate & Social Responsibility**
  Opportunity to raise public and community profile.

- **Recruitment Opportunities**
  Businesses previously involved in MMM have highlighted that work based projects provide an excellent opportunity to audition future potential applicants, reducing the costs and risks of recruitment. It also provides the opportunity to address the skills gap often identified by employers.

- **Fresh Insights to your Business Area**
  Students can provide different perspectives to problems and act as new motivated members of the team, perhaps providing training opportunities for your employees.

The work based project provided the student the opportunity to gain practical experience and skills associated with research and employability, whilst contributing to our work.

- NHS Grampian