

Clients can choose to host a group of 3 students for a Strategic Consultancy Project (SCP) or host 1 student for an Individual Project.

What is the difference between a Group SCP and an Individual Project?

A group SCP consists of 3 students who will present themselves as a self-formed group. They will elect a lead to liaise with the client, although the client will likely have contact with all 3 students within the group should any questions/queries arise throughout the research process. This type of project will suit a project that is more complex and multi-faceted.

Each student will also be asked to write a 10,000 word dissertation which you can also request to read. An additional client presentation regarding the outcomes of the SCP will also need to be agreed at interview stage between the client and the student group.

Individual Project's operate in a similar way but there is only 1 student working on the project and will therefore suit a project that is narrower in topic that takes a more in-depth look at a specific area. The student will write a 12,000 word dissertation which again you can also request to see. An additional client presentation regarding the outcomes of the SCP will also need to be agreed at interview stage between the client and the student group.

Is offering a SCP or Individual Project like hiring an intern?

No. A WBS Strategic Consultancy project (SCP) or Individual Project is a summer engagement between a student/group of students and a corporate client. Students undertaking a project do so as part of their academic programme, with each project requiring clear, specific objectives and a strategy-focused outcome. Students will be conducting targeted research and not undertaking day-to-day tasks. The research conducted forms the basis of the dissertation, which is submitted in early September. By contrast, an internship is usually designed to give a student an insight into a particular organisation or career, rather than focused on an individual project, although a project may subsequently arise through the internship.

What is the difference between an MBA and a Masters student in regards to Projects?

The [Warwick MBA](#) is a broad-based management qualification, attracting experienced managers with typically seven years' work experience. MBA students can undertake either an SCP or an Individual Project.

Masters students tend to be postgraduates with limited professional work experience, focusing on very specific and detailed areas of academic study.

Only Individual Projects can be offered to our Masters students. The following Masters courses offer students consultancy projects;

- [MSc Business Analytics \(MSBA\)](#)
- [MSc Management of Information Systems & Digital Innovation \(MSISDI\)](#)
- [MSc Marketing & Strategy \(MSMS\)](#)

What are the benefits to my organisation in offering a SCP or Individual Project?

- Access to an international talent pool of high quality experience and expertise.
- Fulfilment and delivery of business projects for which there may be limited internal resource.
- Cutting-edge academically robust management thinking and a fresh perspective.
- Project outcomes can result in cost savings, improved systems or processes, suggestions for subsequent revenue generation or new market entry.
- Projects can be viewed as a 10-12 week interview/trial period for potential new employees.
- Increases your organisation's profile at the University of Warwick.

Is there much documentation to complete?

No. The process is designed to be as easy as possible, with only three key forms to complete and sign:

1. SCP/Individual Project Brief
2. SCP/Individual Project Agreement Form
3. Non-Disclosure Agreement (if required)

What are the costs involved?

There are no fees payable to WBS, however all clients are expected to fully reimburse student directly for expenses incurred to undertake the project (usually travel and subsistence).

How much support do I need to provide?

Clients will need to allocate an employee as a mentor or point of contact for the student(s). Contact time depends on the nature of the project, but **access to data, people and office space (if required) for the student(s) needs to be made a priority** and agreed at the outset of the project.

What is the duration of a SCP or Individual project?

Projects typically last between 10 to 12 weeks, dependent on the students' availability after their final modules. Typically this should be no later than 1st July as the written element must be submitted to be marked by the first week of September.

Where is the student(s) expected to be based?

Students can be based either at the client's site, on campus or a combination of both. Location, working hours and expected attendance pattern should be discussed, agreed and documented in the Project Agreement Form to ensure expectations are clear for both the student and the client. Please note that if you expect a student to relocate, this may incur additional costs/expenses for you as the client.

What are the key dates in the projects process?

	MSc Projects	MBA Projects
Final date for submissions (including NDA)	10 th February 2023	17 th February 2023
Deadline for shortlisting	13 th March 2023	27 th March 2023
Interviews (virtual or on campus)	w/c 20 th March 2023	2 nd and 3 rd May 2023
Student start dates	1 st June 2023	26 th June at the latest

We aim to have students matched to projects around one month before the start date, to allow for preparations and background work to start. Please note that we are happy to work with you flexibly, but due to Projects forming part of students' academic programmes, these dates are fixed.

Can I specify certain skills or experience?

Yes. Please provide as much information as possible in the brief to ensure you receive applications from suitably qualified students. As with a job advert, you can request that a student(s) has experience in a certain area, define skills required to successfully complete the project or you could also request that students have covered an academic module directly relevant to your project area.

What can I expect at the end of a SCP or Individual Project?

Depending on the nature of the project, you are welcome to define a deliverable as part of the Project Agreement (e.g. a formal presentation for your staff, management report etc) *This will need to be scoped out at the very beginning of the project so all parties are aware of the final deliverable.*

Is the student required to share their Dissertation with me?

Any rights to the dissertation lie with the creator, therefore you would need to gain written permission (a license) from the student to view or use any part of their dissertation. We recommend you discuss what data and references to your company can and cannot be used with the student(s) at the beginning of the project. These agreed terms can then be included in the SCP agreement form.

How much student interest can I expect?

For individual Projects typical numbers of applicants for a project have ranged between one and eight. This will vary depending on the subject area and level of specialism of the project focus. While our objective is for all clients to successfully recruit students into their projects, this is a competitive process and many students will have multiple project offers, so we cannot guarantee you will have a student allocated to your project.

Group SCP's are a new addition to our cohort and therefore the number of groups who may apply to your SCP are currently unknown. We estimate around 1-2 groups.

How do I select a student/group of students?

Student selection operates in the same way as a recruitment process. WBS will manage the process (advertising projects, collecting applications, scheduling interviews) but we will not recommend students for projects. Clients are welcome to hold interviews on campus or virtually although we do recommend the former as, in our experience, this enables you to build stronger relationships with the students.

How will confidentiality be maintained?

Dissertations produced by students are marked by two WBS academics, who are both under NDA. A sample of Dissertations are also reviewed by an external examiner, who is also under NDA, to ensure consistency of grades and marking. Data you provide can be anonymised, and we can also sign a standard Non-Disclosure Agreement between the University of Warwick and your organisation to give you peace of mind regarding the handling of proprietary data. Students must complete a course on information security and GDPR prior to the start of their project.

Is the student adequately insured when on company premises?

As the student is undertaking a project and not officially employed by you, they should be covered in the same way as any other visitor or consultant on your premises. Please ensure you have adequate [Employers' Liability Insurance](#).

If I am interested how do I proceed?

If you have a specific project already in mind, or would like to organise an exploratory discussion please contact WBS CareersPlus (EmployerRelations@wbs.ac.uk) who will take you through the next steps.

Thank you for your interest in WBS Projects. We look forward to working with you.