What is the difference between a student project and an internship?
A WBS consultancy project is a summer engagement between a student and an external organisation ('project 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 a student's academic 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 focusing on an individual project, although a research project may subsequently arise through the internship.
The application process may be similar, as students apply for and are interviewed by clients, for consultancy projects, as they would be for internships.

What is the difference between an MBA and a Masters student in regards to consultancy projects?
The Warwick MBA is a broad-based management qualification, attracting experienced managers with on average at least seven years' work experience. Masters students tend to be postgraduates with limited professional work experience, focusing on very specific and detailed areas of academic study. As well as the Warwick MBA, 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 an organisation in offering a student 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 three month interview/trial period for potential new employees
- Increase your organisation's profile at the University of Warwick.

Is there much documentation to complete?
The process is designed to be as easy as possible, with only three key forms to complete and sign:
1. Project Brief
2. Project Agreement Form (agreed with your chosen student & their academic supervisor)
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 students 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. Contact time depends on the nature of the project, but **access to data, people and office space (if required) for the student needs to be made a priority** and agreed at the outset of the project with your chosen student.

What is the duration of a student project?
Projects typically last between 10 to 12 weeks, dependent on student availability after their final modules. Typically this should be no later than 1st July and as the project will form the basis of their dissertation it must be completed by 1st September.

Where is the student expected to be based?
Students can be based either at the client's site, on campus or a combination of both – or entirely remote, if government guidelines/travel restrictions are in place. 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)	Friday 11 February 2022	Friday 18 March 2022
Applications forwarded to clients	Tuesday 8 March 2022	Friday 15 April 2022
Deadline for shortlisting	Monday 14th March 2022	Wednesday 20 April 2022
Interviews (virtual or on campus)	Mon 21 to Wed 23 March 2022	Fri 13 & Fri 20 May 2022
Confirmation of successful applicants	Thursday 31 March 2022	Mon 30 May 2022
Student start dates	Wednesday 1 June 2022	From 1 July 2022

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 project brief to ensure you receive applications from suitably qualified candidates. As with a job advert, you can request that a student 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 project?
Depending on the nature of the project, you are welcome to define a deliverable as part of the Project Agreement (e.g. management report, a formal presentation for your staff, a simulation model, or perhaps a marketing strategy). 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 final 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 at the beginning of the project. These agreed terms can then be included in the project agreement form.

How do I select a student?
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 candidates for projects. Virtual interviews will be the default in 2022, but if the situation allows, clients are welcome to hold interviews on campus.

How will confidentiality be maintained?
Dissertations produced by students are marked by two WBS academics, who are both under an NDA. A sample of dissertations is also reviewed by an external examiner, who is also under an 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 (business@wbs.ac.uk) who will take you through the next steps.

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