Case Study

FarmEnergy Consulting

“This project has been beneficial both to us and to the student. It is clearly desirable to link topics that need studying with students wishing to study them.”

Rod McGovern
Founder, Farm Energy Consulting

Project Aims:
- To review technical issues associated with noise from wind turbines;
- To study the methods of assessing the acceptability of this noise;
- To find statistical methods to analyse noise data and apply them to an existing data set.

The Employer’s Experience:
"We benefitted from having a good student who was able to spend time researching a technical area. We gained access to information that we were not aware of, and techniques that would not have been easy to find, even with Google. The results will be very useful and saved us time.”

The Student’s Experience:
“I knew that I needed experience to prove that I could do this kind of work. Because the project had a purpose, I was more interested and was determined to prove that I could do a good job. (As a result of the project) I've got experience, something to talk about at interviews and a reference.”

Making the Most of Masters is funded by the Scottish Funding Council as part of the Learning to Work 2 initiative. It is a Scotland-wide project, currently being piloted by three universities in collaboration:

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You can also find further information for employers, universities and students at:
www.mastersprojects.ac.uk

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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 masters programmes and organisations an ideal opportunity to work together, sharing knowledge and expertise.

- **Real World Projects**
  External organisations have the opportunity to address a real need within their organisation by proposing a project that will allow students to apply knowledge gained through their university programme.

- **Enhanced Employability**
  Students may go through a recruitment process which will help them develop their CV and/or interview experience. Undertaking their dissertation with an external organisation will also provide opportunities to gain valuable experience of the workplace, to refine their career plans and to gain skills relevant to the economy.

- **Fresh Insights to Your Business Area**
  Students are enthusiastic about gaining real experience in the workplace, they can provide different perspectives to problems and act as new motivated members of the team.

- **Addressing Business Needs**
  This scheme provides organisations with an opportunity to undertake projects addressing a need they have identified. This is achieved through collaboration with postgraduates. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to address the skills gap often identified by employers.

How it Works
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.

- **Topic Selection**
  Project proposals 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 and we help to identify the best option for you.

- **Logistics**
  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 visits/meetings.

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

- **Support for Supervisors**
  All students have a university supervisor in addition to an organisation supervisor to help oversee the project.

- **Support for Students**
  Students are supported through the process.

- **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 e.g. travel, accommodation and if necessary appropriate running costs.