

For cost effective business solutions

Sponsor a student project

Businesses looking for innovative, cost-effective solutions to their organisations' needs can benefit from working with Cranfield University by supporting a postgraduate student project. We can assist organisations in the private, public and charitable sectors.

Cranfield University has an impressive track record of working with external partners on projects to improve their performance and competitiveness. Many of these projects are undertaken by our postgraduate students with academic supervision.

Benefit from cost effective project work

Sponsoring organisations benefit from a period of company-based work from a dedicated graduate or team of graduates. Projects usually take the form of original practical developments or research projects such as new product or process development, studies on existing processes, novel application of computer models or analysis of best practice.

Benefit from our expertise

Project work is driven by your company needs and benefits from expert technical consultancy input from Cranfield academic staff. Businesses also gain the potential for enhanced technical credibility through the possibility of academic publication of results, subject to client confidentiality. Project arrangements are jointly established to ensure that the programme of work is suitable. Academic supervisors provide input to the development, direction and reporting of project work. Students also benefit from access to Cranfield's state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

Benefit from a proactive recruiting opportunity

Our courses develop individuals with an awareness of both technical and business management skills, alongside the ability to undertake applied industrial project work. Your organisation can benefit from the 'extended' interview period which sponsoring projects offers. In effect, the projects can become a low-risk method of recruiting high calibre, postgraduates with relevant applied backgrounds.

Areas of expertise

The School of Applied Sciences offers an extensive range of postgraduate programmes across the areas of:

- Automotive and motorsport
- Business and information systems
- Design
- Engineering
- Environment and water
- Manufacturing
- Materials and nanotechnology
- Offshore
- Welding



Sponsorship opportunities

There are a variety of tailored sponsorship opportunities available to suit a variety of needs, from short term consultancy based projects to longer term research.

MSc projects: The MSc is typically a one year taught postgraduate degree, involving taught modules, group projects and an individual thesis project. Projects can be sponsored by businesses and tailored to deliver output relevant to your business needs.

- **Group projects**
Group projects involve a group of students researching a bigger project and are usually assigned between October and May.

- **Thesis projects**
The individual project is a full-time thesis project lasting about four months, often with the graduate based in-company. Timing varies, but students tend to commence work on the project in June. Costs and project scope are discussed on a project by project basis.

MSc by Research projects: We also offer research MSc programmes, where a longer project or set of projects is undertaken full-time, over one year. Costs and project scope are discussed on an individual basis.

PhD project: The PhD involves individual research in an area that has an element of new, unique learning. Companies can approach Cranfield University with a problem or issue that needs solving. A high-quality graduate is tasked with investigating the problem, in order to earn their qualification. Projects typically last three years. The minimum cost to the company is £17,000 per year which includes academic supervision and appropriate use of Cranfield's state-of-the-art facilities.

EngD project: The four year Engineering Doctorate (EngD) degree combines industry-based research, management courses and professional development activities. The programme is designed to develop the next generation of engineering leaders, allowing talented researchers to develop their skills and careers within an industrial environment.

Research projects are driven by industry needs and multi-sponsor projects are encouraged to enable research topics of wide interest to be addressed. Recruitment takes place in collaboration with the sponsoring organisation(s) and studies usually begin in September. The University may be able to access significant research funding for eligible students in certain sectors.

Projects	Duration
MSc group project	2-4 months
MSc thesis project	4-4.5 months
MSc by Research project	1 year
PhD project	3 years
EngD project	4 years

Why Cranfield University?

Cranfield University's focus is on collaborating with industry. All programmes of study are designed to meet the training needs of industry and have a strong input from experts in their sector. Our focus is on applied research and developing industry's future engineers, managers, consultants, and entrepreneurs.

If you would like to discuss project options in further detail, please contact:
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The quality of the (group) projects was excellent and some of the suggestions have certainly given me food for thought. My congratulations go to everyone for their hard work over the course of these projects. The results have exceeded my expectations. ”

Ian Foley, Managing Director of Williams Hybrid Power, sponsor of an MSc group project in motorsport

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To have a resource of diverse talented people to come and integrate into your department while delivering a fresh-eyes approach to the planning of a new facility has been of great benefit in terms identifying issues, presenting solutions and achieving deadlines. ”

John Ladbrook, Simulation Technical Expert at Ford, sponsor of an MSc group project in manufacturing