Engagement opportunities at Leeds University Business School

October 2015
About Leeds University Business School

Leeds University Business School is a leading full-service European business school with around 2600 students from over 80 countries. The Business School is a faculty of the University of Leeds, one of the largest higher education institutions in the UK, and a member of the Russell group research-intensive universities.

We are a top ten business and management research institution in the UK, according to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). In recognition of our excellence in research and teaching, we are proud to hold ‘triple accreditation’ from the three leading international bodies, AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS, the latter of which we hold for the highly sought-after five year status. Furthermore, the School is one of only three institutions in the UK to hold a gold award from the Small Business Charter in recognition of our support and services to small businesses. We also hold international accreditations from the BPS, CIPD and IOE. The School regularly appears in the top rankings including the Financial Times and The Economist.

Our work covers the full spectrum of business disciplines across Accounting and Finance, Economics, International Business, Management, Marketing and Work and Employment Relations. We deliver a rigorous academic education to undergraduate, masters, MBA and PhD students, as well as an executive education portfolio. Our aim is to produce outstanding graduates and develop citizens of the future who will contribute to society.

Our research is informed by the real world and focuses on the challenges and issues faced by industry, government and policy makers. With over 200 academic staff and 10 research centres, our aim is to produce and disseminate research of world-class quality to increase knowledge, skills, understanding and impact. Our research power, size and diversity mean that we are able to offer interdisciplinary study and research opportunities.

The Business School is a key player, supporting and collaborating with businesses regionally, nationally and internationally. We work with large corporate organisations, small businesses and public bodies through research, consultancy and executive education. In addition, academics are involved at government level to influence policy makers and the UK business agenda. These national and international partnerships are also integrated into learning and teaching, providing opportunities for students across all study levels and preparing them for today’s global business environment.

At Leeds University Business School, our mission is to make an exceptional impact on business and society globally through leadership in research and teaching.

A short introductory film about the Business School can be seen here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4InrosAO28
Sponsorship of infrastructure

Leeds University Business School is part of the University of Leeds. The Business School is housed in the Maurice Keyworth building, the impressively renovated 19th century building which used to belong to Leeds Grammar School on the western side of the University of Leeds campus.

Within Leeds University Business School there is the possibility to sponsor our flagship teaching rooms. The selected venue would be named after the sponsoring organisation and would be referred to by that name. Signage externally and within the venue would be branded in the sponsor’s brand. Options include:

- Main Lecture Theatre – Based in the Business School’s main Maurice Keyworth building, this lecture theatre has a capacity of 200. Sponsorship would provide exposure to undergraduate, masters, MBA and executive education programmes. The lecture theatre also hosts prestigious public engagement events, including the Corporate Wisdom lecture series. This series attracts business leaders from across the globe to speak to students, academics, alumni and members of the business community on the issues facing businesses today. The lecture theatre is also used by external organisations for hosting their events and conferences, ranging from local organisations to large corporates.
- Western Lecture Theatre – Within close proximity of the Business School and based on the Western Campus of the University, the lecture theatre has a capacity of 240, attracting similar audiences to the Main Lecture Theatre.
- Executive Education suite of teaching rooms – We have a range of executive education rooms available for sponsorship. We also have seminar rooms based in the Business School. These rooms host our Executive Education programmes e.g. MBA and postgraduate programmes. Room capacities range from 30 – 80.
- Trading Room – A new state-of-the-art trading room in the Business School equipped with Bloomberg terminals, Thomas Reuters database access and a virtual trading platform, suitable for trading, training and research.
Sponsorship of prizes and awards

Biannually our students graduate from the University (July and December). As part of graduation we recognise and reward students’ work at the Business School Prize Giving Ceremony. We have a range of prizes which are awarded to our students, based on a variety of categories, including the highest mark for a module and individual/team contribution. Prizes given can be tangible awards and/or financial rewards. In the Business School public areas we display photos of students receiving their award from the sponsoring organisation.

Chairs

There are opportunities to sponsor professorial chairs. Please contact us if you would like more information.

Executive Education

We offer a range of Executive Education opportunities for businesses. These range from our Executive MBA, programmes within our Small Business Growth Centre and other open executive programmes. In addition we offer customised executive programmes, tailored to face your business challenges. At Leeds University Business School we have well-established expertise in translating research knowledge into practice. Some examples of particular expertise include leadership development, decision making, international business and supply chain management.

Who to contact

If you would like to explore any of these sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Susanne Marchant
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Working with students

Student placements
At the Business School undergraduate students have the opportunity to undertake a work placement between their second and final year of study. Typically these placements last between 9 and 12 months. Our students are highly motivated, and these opportunities help them develop valuable employability skills.

Student projects
Postgraduate students have projects to complete as part of their degree programme. These usually take place during the summer, based on a project suggested by the sponsoring organisation. Typical projects areas centre on accounting, finance, advertising, marketing, corporate communications, PR, human resource management, international business, management, organisational psychology and economics.

Mentoring
In your role as a mentor you can help build a student’s confidence, support their career path, share your experiences and listen. By sharing your knowledge, experience and expertise, you can help your mentee achieve their personal goals. You can mentor face-to-face, by email, phone or Skype and you only need to commit to an hour a month with your mentee, more if you can, for at least a year.

Teaching
We actively seek to work with the local and national business community to contribute to our learning and teaching practices. We strongly believe practitioner knowledge can enrich the curriculum and by integrating practical examples students are able to develop a broader set of skills, contributing to their overall employability. We welcome contributions to our taught programmes across all level study levels.

Who to contact
If you would like to explore any of these opportunities to work with students, please contact:

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Research

Our research mission is to produce and disseminate research of world class quality, to increase knowledge, skills, understanding and impact. Our research is informed by the real world and focuses on the challenges and issues faced by industry, government and policy makers, at regional, national and international levels. With this in mind there are several ways in which businesses can collaborate with our research centres and leading academics. Below are a number of broad ideas, but we are very keen to talk to business leaders to explore their needs and ideas.

Research Consultancy
A consultancy project is a paid-for piece of research or knowledge transfer that can be delivered by a single expert academic or a small group of researchers and would typically be done in a relatively short timescale. It could involve some interviews or a survey to explore a topic of importance, or it could draw upon previous work and existing knowledge. The Faculty Research and Innovation Office is able to assist in designing an approach to meet your needs and budget. Quite often these projects can lead to something much bigger, with a longer timeframe and with significant impact in the world outside higher education. This could be a major programme or piece of work funded by a sponsor, or might involve a joint collaborative grant application to one of the major government or institutional research funders (see Collaborative Research).

Collaborative Research
A collaborative research project involves new research and data collection which is expected to lead to significant new knowledge and insight. We have several long standing industry partners with whom we collaborate, including Rolls-Royce. A project of this nature may be funded entirely by the sponsor or jointly-funded, say by a Research Council grant with a contribution from the sponsor. In the latter scenario, some of the sponsor’s contribution is likely to be ‘in kind’ support, such as management time devoted to supporting the project.

We increasingly submit grant applications to funding bodies with business or government project partners. In this type of joint-funded collaborative project, the generalised project findings are disseminated to a wider business and academic audience. With any type of collaborative research, the academics involved publish academic journal articles based on the work, although these are often anonymised so that the identity of the collaborative partner is not made public. If this is of interest please get in touch to discuss ideas.

Sponsored PhD Studentships
There is a growing interest in funding a PhD student to undertake a collaborative research project. This can be a cost effective way of working with academia and tackling a real business problem in depth. The student has an academic supervisor and a supervisor from the sponsoring organisation. The period of the PhD is three years, although an additional year may be incorporated. Please contact the Faculty Research and Innovation Office to discuss your requirements and costs.

Sponsored Research Fellow
If a more senior researcher is required for a sponsored project, a post-doctoral research fellow can be sponsored. Similarly to PhD Studentships, they would have both academic and business/organisational supervisors. These would typically be for a period of one or two years.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) are a means by which a business can access the specialist knowledge of academics and graduates. They are a government-funded scheme to encourage organisations in industry, commerce, and the public and service sectors to foster a culture of innovation, to bring new ideas and products to market. Through the KTP scheme you can access the skills and resources of the University of Leeds to work on a research project. If you have a strategic need but not the in-house capacity to address it, or can’t find a commercial solution, then we could discuss whether a KTP might be appropriate. We have a good track record of working with business on KTPs and have one of the highest numbers of KTPs in the country.

www.leeds.ac.uk/info/125080/knowledge_transfer_partnerships

Other Opportunities
There are a number of other research sponsorship opportunities:
• A company might be interested in sponsoring a Visiting Professor to the University. In turn, their title could carry the sponsor’s brand name.
• It is also possible to sponsor a Research Seminar Series and other events.
• We are also very interested in talking to organisations who would like to host research student placements. These could apply to final year Undergraduates, Masters or Postgraduate Researchers. The placements can range from a few weeks up to six months. A specific project would be agreed in advance and the student would have an academic supervisor.

Who to contact

If you would like to explore any of these opportunities to work with the Research and Innovation Office, please contact:

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