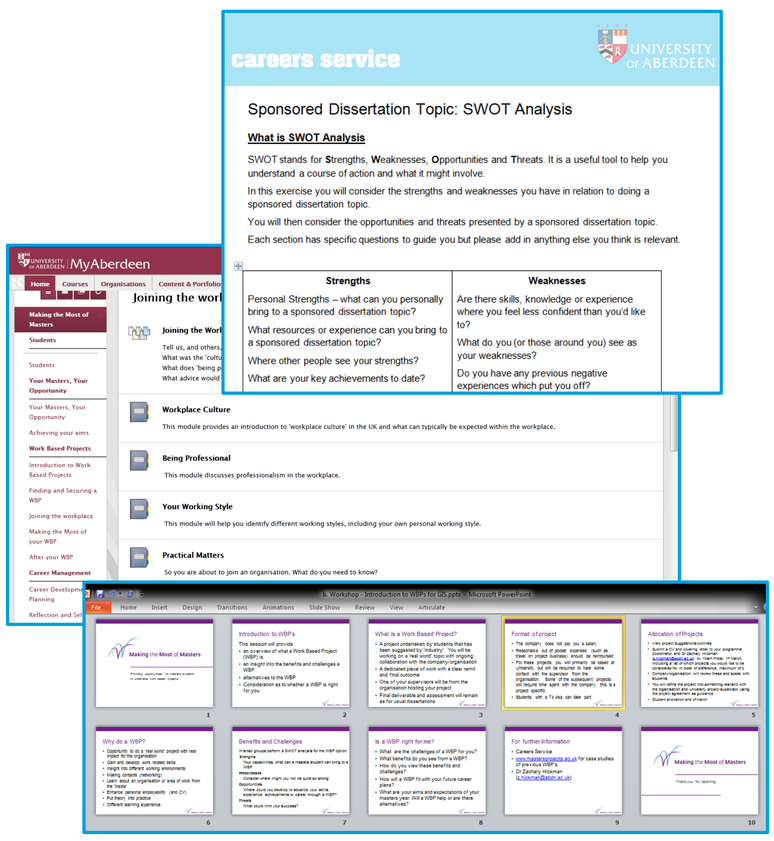
A Toolkit for Work Based Projects – does one size fit all?

Diane Gill
Wendy Rudland
Neil Lent
Eunice Atkins
Zac Hickman
Caroline Pope

Making the Most of Masters aims to create more opportunities for taught postgraduate students to undertake work based projects (WBPs). As part of this, the team have developed a suite of resources, or a 'toolkit', available to any Scottish HEI wishing to embed this option within their curriculum. For further information see www.mastersprojects.ac.uk

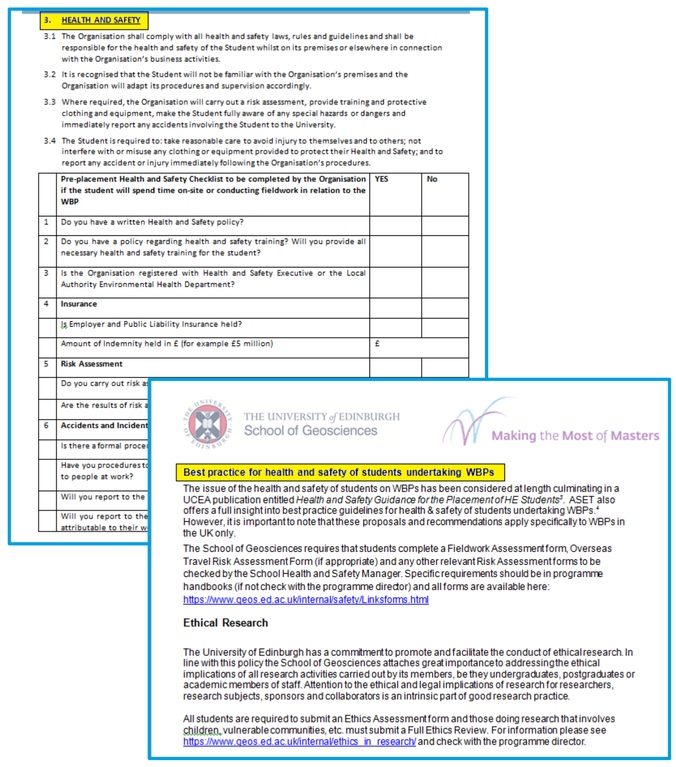
Too General or Too Specific – Finding the Middle Ground

A major challenge was developing resources that are generic enough to suit any masters programme and/or student but not so generic as to be of no use to anybody. For example, the requirements of a company offering a project in a technologically sensitive subject such as Biotechnology are very different to those of a small charity offering an International Development project. Similarly, as taught postgraduate students come from a diverse background, their motivations for choosing to study at masters level differ widely, as does the support they require in order to achieve their aims.



The Toolkit Includes

- Guide to WBPs for University Staff
- Information for Host Organisations
- Marketing Material
- Student Support Resources
- Project Agreement
- Student Industry Projects (SIP)
- Feedback Surveys
- Case Study templates

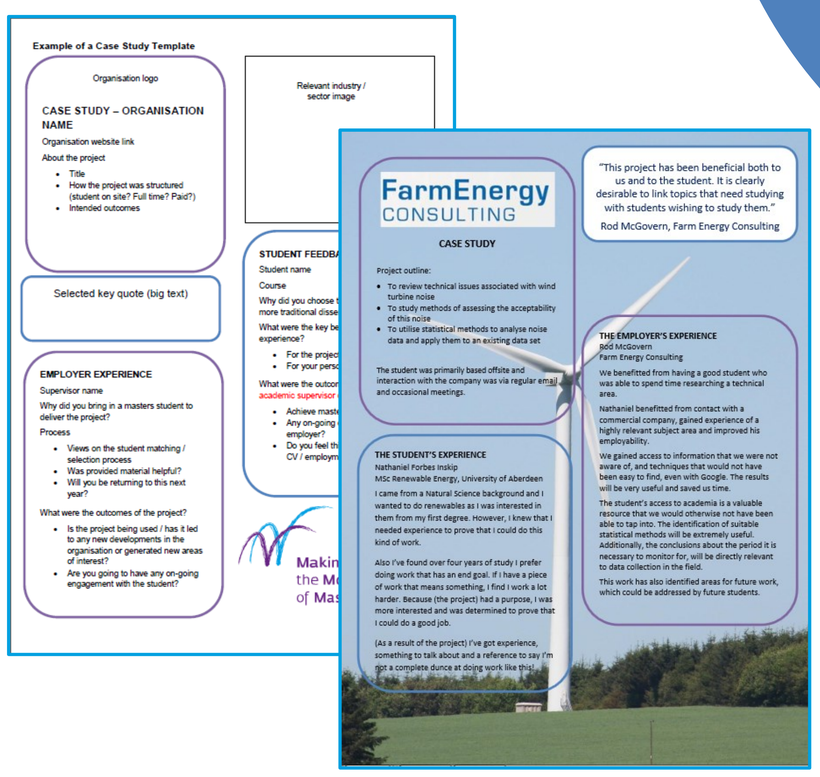


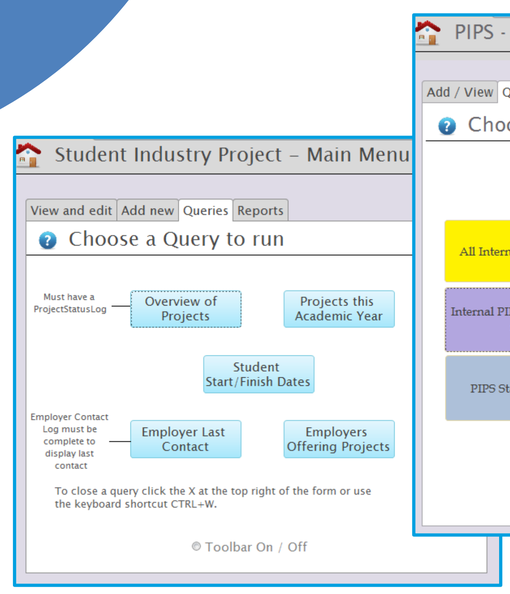
Our Approach: Build a Skeleton

Resources were developed that have a high degree of flexibility through the use of skeleton documents that can be tailored for individual needs. This includes different modes of delivery (e.g. online versus face to face) and a 'pick and mix' approach on content.

Student support resources can be delivered via a virtual learning environment or workshops. All can be tailored and a 'pick and mix' approach is suggested to ensure the most relevant materials are available to students.

Documents can be customised to incorporate your school or programme specific information. For example, here the 'health and safety ' section of the Project Agreement form has been replaced by the Schools' own Best Practice information.





Blank templates, such as the case study here, can be customised and populated with your own information

The SIP database, used to keep track of projects and organisations, can be fully customised both in its look and feel and in the queries and reports available. Here additional queries have been added.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING
Scottish Funding Council
Promoting further and higher education