



## **CASE STUDY 8**

**Title:** University of Stirling Management School - What are the key challenges that students face when applying for internships? A study focusing on undergraduate Students at the University of Stirling Management School

**Three key words:** Research, Insight, Evidence

**Transition the practice supports:** Transition through university ('Being there, Staying there').

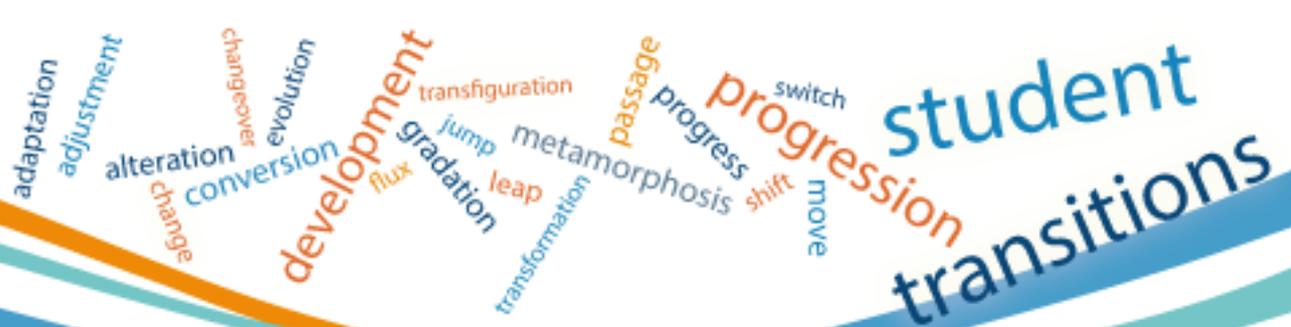
**Abstract:** This thesis will explore the challenges that undergraduate students at the University of Stirling face when applying for internships, focusing on Management School students in particular. The approach to the research is inductive, through a case study approach, and will conclude with a set of recommendations for the Management School and the Careers Development Centre on how to confront these challenges in the future.

**Description:** The main concepts which will be discussed throughout the study are the challenges that students face during the application process for internships, and the factors affecting these, the student-employer perceptions of internships, and finally how the university can help students with the process in future. The research objectives for this thesis can be identified as follows:

- To identify the awareness of internships amongst Management School undergraduates and the expectations that students have around these
- To identify the barriers that students face when applying for internships, and the factors affecting these, including social mobility, demographics, and financial capital.
- To identify the student and employer perceptions of internships
- To look at the impact of work-based learning opportunities, including internships, and what students can apply and reflect on when returning to their university studies
- To identify what could be done to improve the experience of an internship application.
- To devise a set of recommendations for the Management School to improve students' experience in future with internship applications and ultimately increase the success rate of these.

**Recommendations:** The results will be disseminated to staff and used in work supporting students to gain internships, particularly in the CDC, but also across the Schools

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