

Exclusive consultancy challenges for undergraduate and MBA students

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June is an exciting month for the Business School, as we welcome Deloitte back for the second year of the intensive MBA Deloitte Consultancy Challenge and launch the brand new Undergraduate Capgemini Community Challenge. Both are week-long programmes, kicking off at the Business School Monday 11th June, designed exclusively for the University of Birmingham.

The MBA Deloitte Consultancy Challenge was the most well received activity on the MBA programme last year. It is designed to prepare the MBA students who are taking on company assignments for their dissertation, with the likes of Unilever, PA Consulting, and Lloyds Bank, with an invaluable consultancy tool kit. The programme is delivered by Jane Lodge, Business School Advisory Board Member and previously a Deloitte Partner for over 25 years, together with a team of Deloitte auditors and consultants. The MBA students go through extensive training each morning in project scoping, client relations, market research, benchmarking, data gathering techniques, ethics and mitigating risk. Then each afternoon, they work in teams on a highly intensive ongoing consultancy scenario based around Marston Breweries. The students have to check emails for "game-changers" during the week and prepare for two Board meetings, where they meet two further Deloitte partners playing the role of the client.

The Capgemini Community Challenge is a brand new initiative between the Business School and Careers and Employability Centre, and has also been opened up to Computer Science. It involves undergraduate students working in teams, and going out with a Capgemini representative – Apprentice-style – on Community Projects where they are tasked with delivering a solution to a charity. The first day involves teamwork and consultancy training led by Capgemini Vice President Billie Major, before the students go out on the road. At the end of the week, the student teams have the unprecedented opportunity to prepare and deliver their presentations to their client in the world-renowned Capgemini Accelerated Solutions Environment, where they will be given help from ASE professionals to design their own space, within the high-tech facility, to present from.

Both programmes are unique, neither Capgemini or Deloitte are running anything of this nature and duration with any other University in the UK, and the senior level contact that both offer our students creates a networking opportunity that is second-to-none in terms of employability and professional development.