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## 1. About the Strathclyde Solutions Exchange Workshop

SSE is a five-day multidisciplinary initiative aimed at students, staff and engaging researchers. The workshop aspect allows our researchers to work collaboratively with other Strathclyde students and staff to solve problems from local industry, charities and SMEs. At the end of the week, participants will present a summary of how they would intend to resolve the real-life business problems presented by the organisations in a Dragons' Den style contest. The Dragons' Den panel, consisting of academic members of staff, will choose the winning solution which will receive a £5K award to implement the solution in collaboration with the organisation. The other participants will have the opportunity to apply for funding support to assist their organisation in putting into practice the proposed solutions. The SSE organisational team will provide support in accessing this funding support.

Solving real organisational issues through our knowledge, technologies and innovations, researchers have the opportunity to facilitate new cross-disciplinary collaborations within and out-with the University. The workshop element aims to encourage researchers to look beyond the limits of their own subject area, acquiring skills and knowledge outside their specialism. It is an initiative which aims to deliver upon the University's foundation and purpose – to be a place of useful learning – by actively engaging with organisations in order to both address the issues they face and to facilitate new cross-disciplinary collaborations within the University.

### *Aims and Objectives of the Workshop:*

- To address problems relevant to the University's strategic plan.
- To permeate boundaries between traditional academic subjects.
- To broaden and raise awareness of the range of research methods.
- To create a sense of community in sharing knowledge and expertise (One Strathclyde).
- To improve links with industry and complement Knowledge Exchange (KE) in the commercial sector with activities with third sector organisations and regulatory bodies.

## 2. Benefits of engaging with an organisation

The many benefits of engaging with an organisation through SSE include:

- An opportunity to solve real organisational issues through knowledge, technologies and innovations.
- Facilitation of new cross disciplinary collaborations within and outwith the University.
- Acquisition of skills and knowledge outside your specialism by working beyond the limits of your own subject area.
- Building interdisciplinary connections through interacting with researchers from different Departments/Faculties.
- An opportunity to engage in and raise your Knowledge Exchange profile.
- Opportunity to win funding to implement the winning solution.
- Real value-add for the CV, including potential industrial referees.
- Increased awareness of the needs and requirements of commercially focused research work.
- Exposure to business skills.
- Expanded network – within academia and industry.

Please see the case studies on the SSE site for example case studies and outcomes:

<http://www.strath.ac.uk/businessorganisations/consultancyservices/strathclydesolutionsexchange/>

### **3. How students should prepare for the workshop**

Before the workshop you should have registered for the course and indicated your preference for the kind of organisation you would like to work with.

Before the first day of the course, we advise you undertake some background research on the organisation you will be paired with and their ways of working.

Your group facilitator will be in touch prior to the start date to fully brief you on your allocated organisation and give you the opportunity to submit any questions you may have. These will be fed back to your organisation prior to your initial meeting on 28 April.

### **4. What you will be required to deliver to your organisation**

At the end of the week you will be required to deliver:

- A 15 minute presentation proposing a solution to your problem with 15 minutes of questions from the Dragons
- A short group report (up to 2,000 words) detailing your findings
- You may also be required to deliver a more detailed report to the organisation if you wish to receive credit for your participation. This must be sent to the organisation on or before 13 June 2014.

## 5. Daily workshop programme

### Day 1: 28 April 2014, 09:30-13:30

Location: Hamnett Wing (HW) 111-114, John Arbuthnott Building  
(see map at end of document)

09:30 Coffee and Registration  
09:45 Welcome and Introductions: Professor Tim Bedford, Associate Deputy  
Principle Knowledge Exchange and Research Enhancement  
10:00 Company Presentations  
12:00 Lunch  
12:30 Group / Company discussions  
13:00 Group Work  
16:00 Event Close

On the first morning of the workshop, representatives from each of the participating organisations will give a presentation of their problem to all of the participants in the workshop. The presentations each last for 30 minutes, including the opportunity for participants to ask questions.

Following the presentations, participants will be formed into pre-organised teams to work with a specific organisation and commence work on the problem. Organisation representatives should be available during lunch to meet their team and answer any questions.

**Day 2-4: 29<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014, 10am-4pm**

Location: 29 Royal Exchange Square

The core hours for days 2-4 will be 10am 'til 4pm, however please note that 29 Royal Exchange Square will be available for your teams to use from 9am 'til 5pm each day.

Group work will occupy most of your time throughout the duration of the workshop, where you will develop a strategy to tackle the challenge presented by your allocated organisation. A crucial aspect of the SSE workshop is the close interaction between participants and representatives from participating organisations, therefore a representative from your organisation will be available for periods of time each day, whether in person or by phone. We would encourage you to make the most effective use of the time available to you by discussing in advance the information you would like to obtain in your discussions with your organisation.

**Day 5: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014, 09.30 – 13.00**

Court Senate Suite, Collins Building

09.30 Coffee & Registration

09.45 Welcome and Introductions

10.00 Team Presentations & questions from Dragons

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Announcement of winning team

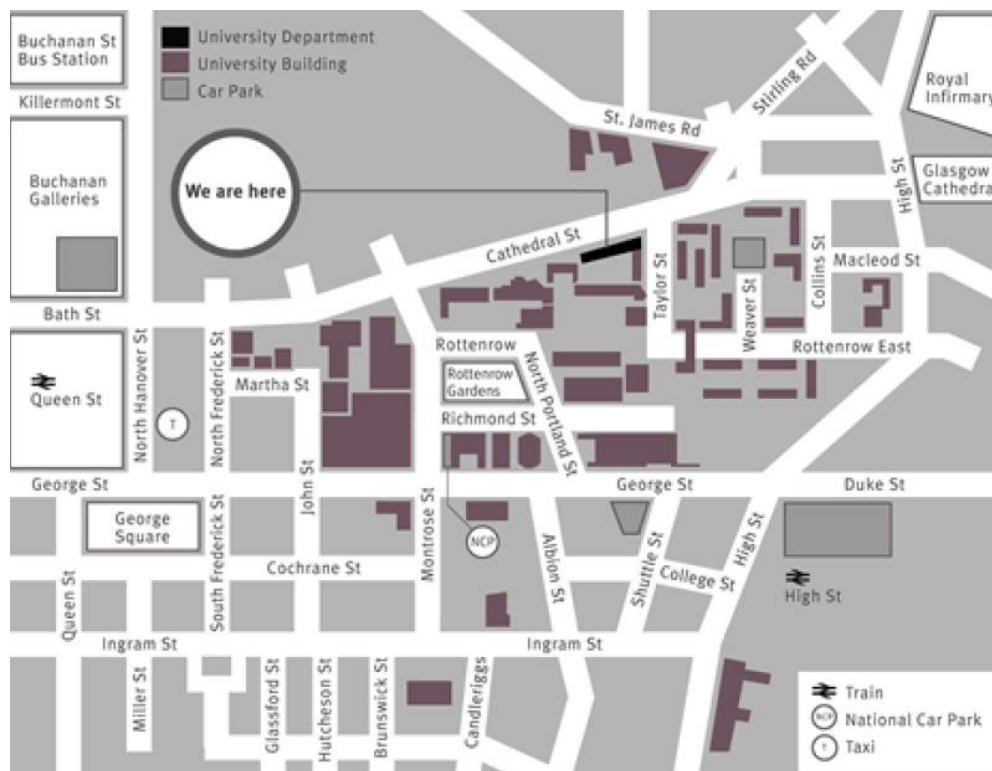
13:30 Event Close

At the end of the workshop you will present your proposed solution to the problems. This will take the form of a Dragons' Den style question and answer session and will be judged by a panel consisting of academic staff members. You will also be required to provide a summary report of up to 2,000 words. Questions can be asked and afterwards the organisation will comment on your groups' achievements. You will also be required to write a more detailed formal report following SSE which will be sent to the organisation within six weeks (13 June 2014).

*Follow up activities:*

Following the work undertaken during the course, it may be agreed that there is scope for further research on the problems involving collaboration between the problem partner(s) and some of the participants. The winning team will be awarded up to £5,000 to implement the proposed solution with the organisation.

## 6. Useful Information



### VENUE AND PROGRAMME INFORMATION

The SSE workshop will take place in a number of venues as follows:

Day 1: 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014, 09.30-13.30

Location: Hamnett Wing (HW) 111-114, John Arbuthnott Building

**Day 2-4: 29<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014, 10am – 4pm**

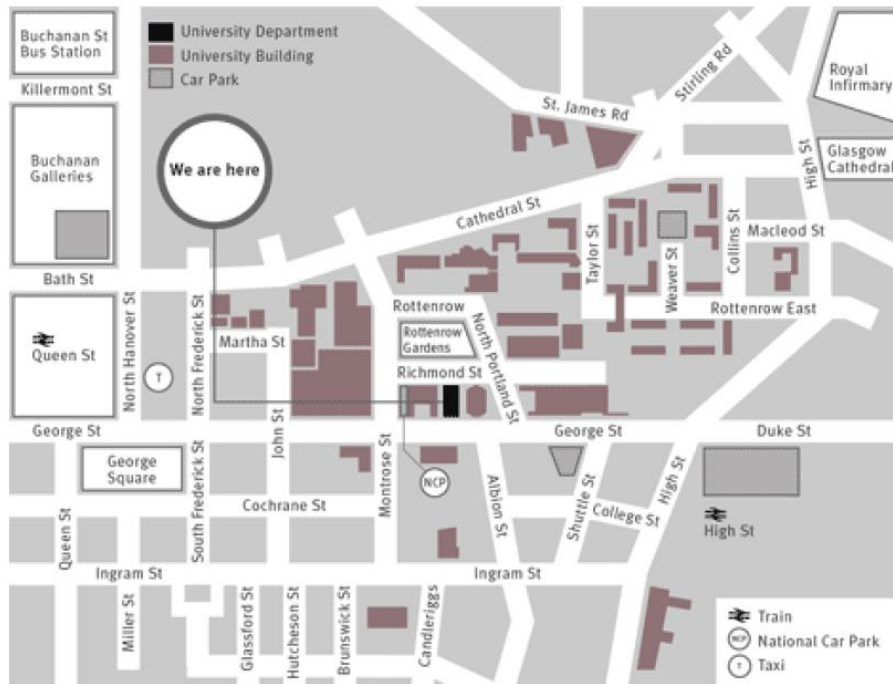
Location: 29 Royal Exchange Square

See google maps:

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/29+Royal+Exchange+Square/@55.8598675,-4.2529515,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x4888469f9e53cc3b:0x648c8abcf3ad932>

**Day 5: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014, 09.30-13.00**

Court Senate Suite, Collins Building



The place of useful learning

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**UK Entrepreneurial University  
of the Year 2013/14**  
**UK University of the Year  
2012/13**

## 7. Key Contacts

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**\*PLEASE NOTE CLAIRE NIMMO IS OUT OF OFFICE UNTIL 28 APRIL**