

Status Report - Mock Interview Event (W8) - 03/03/19 - Matt Haslett

- On Sat 23 February, CUEA ran a mock interview and CV review event in conjunction with CUES. The event ran from 1000-1300 and was held at CUED.
- Volunteers were organised by Aurelia in the run up to the event and CUEA admin was handled by Matt on the day. 6 volunteers were involved, including a number of committee members. Volunteers interviewed in pairs where possible.
- CUES organised sign-ups for the students and interview sessions of 30 minutes were set up. Where possible, students were interviewed by a volunteer with a similar engineering background to that they had chosen to specialise in or were thinking of specialising in. The CUES vice-president, Lizzie Hawkings, supported Matt with admin on the day. 15 students were interviewed in total (16 signed up, one no show).
- Feedback from students on the interviews was good, with various comments on how useful it was to have a short interview and then be given feedback on how they did, which is a rarity from most job interviews.
- Volunteers commented that in general the students were pretty good and came across well in most cases. However, it was noted that knowledge of product development was poor (to be fed back for curriculum review).
- General feedback from volunteers on the day is that it would be better to have 45 minute slots to allow around 30 minutes for an interview and 10-15 minutes for feedback. Interviewing in pairs was thought to be the best approach as it more closely resembles real-life interviews and makes giving feedback easier as when one is asking a question the other can make notes. It was noted that it may also be worth getting some guidance from the university careers service to make sure that we are giving complementary advice to students.
- CV reviews were conducted by Matt due to the small number of volunteers. The standard was pretty good and some basic feedback was given on how to improve them further. 6 reviews of around 10 minutes were conducted and it was noted that no-one turned up just for a CV review, all also had mock interviews. Volunteers with more experience of looking at CVs would be of benefit if we are to run future events of this type.