



Applied FinTech Project

2017/2018

UoG FinTech Society

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About Us

Who we are

Founded in summer 2017, we are the **first student-led FinTech Society in Scotland**. We bring together University of Glasgow students of any degree who are interested in technology innovations that are likely to disrupt the financial services sector. **Within the first 3 months**, the society has attracted over **60 fully-registered members**, with an excellent feedback from our first workshops.



Our aim

Our purpose and aims are:



- ✓ to share and **develop knowledge of FinTech-related** topics among society members
- ✓ to give members opportunities to develop useful **employability skills** (teamwork, industry awareness, analytical & research skills, presentation skills,...)
- ✓ to **promote Scotland** in the Fintech world

How we want to achieve our goals

We will achieve our goals by **running a series of workshops**, panel events and other activities throughout the academic year for society members.

Each workshop focusses on a specific FinTech subtopic, such as blockchain, cryptocurrencies, peer-to-peer lending and artificial intelligence.

A group of **society members** research these topics in **advance** and then deliver a presentation of the topic on the workshop day. Moreover, we invite **guest speakers** from industry and academia to provide additional perspective on the topic.



Feedback & Selected Member Profiles

"I can honestly say that I was bowled over by the prep done by the team. Usually these types of events just invite a speaker and then sit back to listen/learn etc. In this case, it was clear that they'd not only worked hard in advance to get their heads around the subject but to also then prepare a handout to share with the rest of the group was really impressive!"

Dug Campbell

Blockchain Consultant, Writer and Speaker

"You should all be very proud of what you have achieved in such a short amount of time. UoG Fintech Society is shaping up to be a fantastic and professional student organisation. It's a pleasure to work with you all."

Katie Forsyth

Alumni Officer - Adam Smith Business School

Jan Jindra – M.Sc. Quantitative Finance. Jan is the founder and president of the society. As well as holding a Joint Honours degree in Finance & Economics from Strathclyde University, he completed internships in Aberdeen Asset Management, EY and Barclays. He is a FinTech enthusiast and hopes to develop his programming skills during his current Master's degree.

Antreas Pogiatzis – B.Sc. Computer Science. Antreas is a co-founder and vice president of the society. He is a fourth year undergraduate, and also co-founder of tech start-up DermaTrack. He is blockchain enthusiast and highly skilled software engineer. He has completed a technology internship and JP Morgan.

Kamal Chauhan – B.Acc. Accountancy and Finance. Kamal is also a vice president of the society. He is a second year undergraduate, and also a Branch Manager for webuyanycar.com. He is mature student who has returned to study after working in sales, and hopes to use these skills to help develop the society. He was drawn to the society as an investor in Bitcoin.

Santiago Ramirez – LL.M Corporate and Financial Law. Santiago is currently undertaking two Master's degrees in Law. He is specifically interest in the financial sector and the regulations within blockchain technology. He has completed internships at Societe Generale bank and the French Ministry of Justice.

Heli Trivedi – M.Sc. Banking and Financial Services. Heli is leading a workshop of five members to produce a report and deliver a presentation. She has worked for almost three years as a business associate for KPMG.

Zi Qin Wong – B.Sc. Computer Science. Zi is a first year computer science undergraduate. She impressed the society with her professionalism and great contribution to our Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies workshop.

Applied FinTech Project

Rationale and description

Glasgow University FinTech Society members undertake to conduct **Applied FinTech Project (AFTP)** on "live" business cases. FinTech Society members work on a project aimed at solving specific FinTech-related issue(s) in existing businesses. They work in teams to map out both the challenges and opportunities faced by the businesses with regards to FinTech, drawing on cross-disciplinary research to devise tailored insights and potential solutions for the business.

The Applied FinTech Project is meant to be based on **experiential learning** rather than guest talks/lectures. This approach stems from the philosophy that the most valuable skills transferable to any work environment can most effectively be acquired through "learning by doing". This philosophy is reflected in the structure of the Applied FinTech Project whereby the vast majority of hours is spent at the project team's weekly meetings and in meetings with the business.

At the same time, the business will benefit from having the **opportunity to gain another perspective on the specific FinTech-related issue from university students at no cost**. Furthermore, the business will have chance to promote themselves among university students interested in technology, finance and innovation.

Aims and Objectives

The main purpose of the Applied FinTech Project within the Glasgow University FinTech Society is to help society members:

- ✓ develop useful transferable skills by working on a hands-on, real-world project
- ✓ develop their knowledge of FinTech by their active research in this area and by building on the fundamental knowledge gained at FinTech Society's workshops in Semester 1
- ✓ develop the ability to link theory with practice in a real-world environment
- ✓ develop critical thinking, communication, team-working, presentation & report writing and wide range of interpersonal skills
- ✓ enhance project members' employability perspectives

Project ideas

Some of the specific project ideas that FinTech Society members undertaking the Applied FinTech Project can be working on for the benefit of the business can be (but not limited to) the following:

1. Identification and exploration of opportunities for the given organisation in the FinTech space and/or benefits from employing FinTech technologies
2. Conducting a market research with regards to a FinTech-related project/idea
3. Exploration and assessment a potential impact on the organisation with regards to the FinTech future.

Please feel free to suggest any other, specific project topic that'd benefit your organisation.

The project outputs for the organisation consist of (1) Report and (2) Presentation. The project outputs should address the following:

- Background & motivation for the AFTP
- Approach undertaken by the team
- Main findings
- Recommendations / Solutions to the business

Additional items can be added as per request of a specific organisation.

Society members working on the Applied FinTech Project commit to working 4 hours per week on their weekly team meetings.

Proposed Timetable

Time	Activity
Week 1	<p>The Applied FinTech Project team will hold an initial meeting with a business representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to learn about the work, objectives and nature of the specific organisation • to clarify the project purpose and ask any questions if needed • to set specific objectives for the Applied FinTech Project • to agree on the deadline & day for the delivery of the project outputs

Week 2-6	FinTech Society project team works on the Applied FinTech Project for the business on regular 4-hour/week group meetings.
Week 7	FinTech Society project team summarizes their 5-week work and produces project outputs: 1) Report, 2) Presentation.
Week 8	<p>FinTech Society project team holds an event to present the Presentation on their 'Findings and Recommendations' to the business with the presence of a business representative at the event (mandatory).</p> <p>The business representative will be given opportunity to address the event attendees, talk about their business and their work around FinTech future (optional).</p>

Stakeholders involved

- ✓ **Glasgow University FinTech Society project team**, 4-5 members (required)
 - FinTech Society will open applications for this project once the concept of the project is clearly set by the business. The members will be selected by the society leadership team through an interview process.
- ✓ **A business** with the desire to learn about FinTech opportunities from university students (required)
- ✓ **A mentor** for the Applied FinTech Project team (from academia/industry) to help guide the project team

Input required from the organisation

- ✓ **Propose a specific project topic** that the FinTech Society project team will be working on and clearly set objectives and expectations from the project team.
- ✓ **Meet the project team in Week 1** (i.e. w/c 8th January) to provide an initial introduction to the company and the project.
- ✓ **Attendance of at least 1 representative from the business at the final end-semester event** where the project team will deliver a presentation to the business. Optionally, the business will be given an opportunity to address society members & introduce their business to university students.