



- [Home](#)
- [About this system](#)
- [Release history](#)
- [Contact us](#)

Modelling and Solving Generic Educational Timetabling Problems.

Lead Research Organisation: [Lancaster University](#)

Department Name: Mathematics and Statistics

[Go back](#)

- [Overview](#)
- Organisations
- People
- Related Projects

Abstract

[Funding details](#)

Universities have a large number of students enrolled on many different programs of study. They also employ lots of staff to facilitate the teaching of these courses. Ultimately, an individual event, such as a lecture or a workshop, needs to occur in a particular space at a particular time. This assignment is represented as a timetable and the aim is to produce a timetable that everyone is happy with.

Two questions arise from this description: How do you quantify how good a timetable is and how do you produce a timetable that is good? The novel work within this research will be to manage how people move around campus and use physical space efficiently as well as consider "virtual" online spaces which are becoming more popular. This will be done by mathematically forming the problem and researching methods that can be used to solve it.

A broader research question is to ask if this work can be used to guide strategic decision making. A strategic decision is one that changes the long-term operation of an organisation. The aim is to establish a firm relationship between the timetabling problem and the strategic decisions that universities have to make.

In partnership with MIT.

Planned Impact

This proposal will benefit (i) the UK economy and society, (ii) our industrial partners, (iii) the wider community of non-academic employers of doctoral graduates in STOR, (iv) the scientific disciplines of statistics and operational research and associated academic communities, (v) UK doctoral students in STOR, and (vi) the CDT students themselves.

Below we outline how each of these communities will realise these benefits:

(i) The UK economy will gain a competitive edge through a significant increase in the supply and diversity of doctoral STOR professionals with the skills required to undertake influential, responsible and impactful research, and who have been trained to become future leaders. Our goal is that our future alumni who enter industry assume leading roles in realising the major impact that STOR can make in achieving effective data driven decision-making. Our existing alumni are already starting to achieve this. A wider societal benefit will

accrue from research contributions to EPSRC Prosperity Outcomes, e.g. to the UK being a Productive and Resilient Nation.

(ii) Our industrial partners will particularly benefit from the skills supply identified in item (i), as likely employers of STOR-i graduates. They will further benefit from teaming with a community of leading edge STOR researchers in the solution of substantive industrial challenges. Mechanisms for the latter include doctoral projects co-supervised with industry, industrial internships, engagement in research clusters and industrial problem-solving days. Our training programme will give students the skills they need to ensure that research is conducted responsibly and that outcomes are successfully communicated to beneficiaries. The value that our industrial partners place on working with STOR-i can be seen through the pledged cash support of £1.7M.

(iii) A wider benefit will accrue from the employment of STOR-i graduates, equipped as described in items (i) and (ii), across non-partner public and private sector organisations. The breadth and depth of training provided by the CDT will enable students to quickly make a difference in these organisations, using their research skills to affect significant change.

(iv) The STOR academic community will benefit from methodological advances and from the increase and diversity in the supply of STOR researchers who value, and have experience of, collaborative research. Our alumni will be leaders in 21st Century Statistics with a strong culture of, and training in, reproducible research and a focus on achieving impact with excellence. Our recruitment strategy will further benefit this community in achieving a healthier supply of high-quality doctoral candidates from diverse backgrounds. Our research internship programme gives top mathematically able individuals from across the UK an experience of STOR research and has been shown to increase applications for STOR PhD programmes across the UK.

(v) Elements of the STOR-i programme will benefit the wider community of UK doctoral students in STOR. Using financial support from our industrial partners, we will continue our National Associate Scheme. This will provide up to 50 UK STOR doctoral students with funding and access to elements of STOR-i's training programme. An annual conference will provide opportunities for learning, networking and sharing research progress to members of the scheme.

(vi) STOR-i students will benefit from a personalised programme that will support each individual in fully achieving their research leadership potential, whether in academia or industry. Students will be given the tools and opportunities to develop research and broader skills that will enable them to achieve maximum scientific impact for their work. Our current alumni provide strong evidence that these future graduates will be extremely employable.

Student:

[Matthew Davison](#)

Period of Study:

Sept 20 - Jan 25

Funder:

EPSRC

Project Status:

Active

Project Category:

Studentship

Project Reference:

2438701

Research Topic:

[Unclassified](#)

Organisations

- [Lancaster University \(Lead Research Organisation\)](#)
- [Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(Student Project Partner\)](#)

People

ORCID iD

[Ahmed Kheiri \(Primary Supervisor\)](#)

 <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-6716-2130>

[Matthew Davison \(Student\)](#)

Publications

The following are buttons which change the sort order, pressing the active button will toggle the sort order

[Author Name](#)

[descending \(press to sort ascending\)](#)

[Title Publication Date Published](#)

[10](#) [25](#) [50](#)

Studentship Projects

Project Reference	Relationship	Related To	Start	End	Student Name
EP/S022252/1			30/09/2019	30/03/2028	
2438701	Studentship	EP/S022252/1	30/09/2020	31/01/2025	Matthew Davison

Data

[The Data](#) on this website provides information about publications, people, organisations and outcomes relating to research projects

APIs

A set of REST [API's](#) enable programmatic access to the data. Refer to the application programming interfaces [GtR](#) and [GtR-2](#)

Contact

UKRI Gateway
Polaris House
Swindon
SN2 1ET
gateway@ukri.org

