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The employment prospects of mathematics graduates have received much attention lately as, despite the problem-solving and analytical skills which these graduates have developed, the employment outcome statistics are disappointing. We describe a collaboration with a recruitment consultancy which was one of the Greenwich Department of Mathematical Sciences employability initiatives in 2014/15.

This collaboration aimed to improve students' interview skills by offering them the opportunity to experience a mock interview, on both sides of the table, with specialist recruiters from the financial sector. Students were given extensive feedback by the professionals, with a particular emphasis on making the most of their achievements. Academic staff watched, and occasionally took part, in the mock interviews. Since many academics do not have recent personal experience of the current recruitment process in the areas in which mathematics graduates are seeking employment, they gained very valuable insights which will help them better support students.

Student feedback on the initiative has been very positive and the implementation appears to have boosted the confidence of participants and enhanced their understanding of the graduate recruitment process. It was also a very useful experience for the academics who took part. However, there are a number of issues, including student engagement, which need attention for a successful implementation to realise the full benefits of the initiative. This presentation will discuss our experience and the problems encountered during the process, and outline possible actions that could help address them.