



UOR M&A GROUP

October Briefing

16,000⁺

People reached on LinkedIn

3rd

Of 120+ teams, UK & Europe M&A Case Competition

10⁺

Published reports

30⁺

Futures Trading Challenge participants

To the members of the UoR M&A Group,

When the society started in the autumn of 2025, it had five committee members, no track record and a fairly simple idea, which was that students at Reading and Henley who were serious about deals and finance deserved somewhere to learn the work properly, rather than waiting to be taught it on the job. We did not know how many people would agree. Quite a few did.

Over the following eight months, a research team that grew to more than a dozen analysts published a newsletter every month, and those editions reached more than 16,000 people on LinkedIn, a figure none of us would have predicted at the start. Our competition team placed 3rd out of more than 120 teams at the UK & Europe M&A Case Competition, presenting to judges from Nomura, PJT Partners, Neuberger Berman and BGF and finishing ahead of universities that are usually expected to win these things. Add a Futures Trading Challenge with over 30 participants, a delegation to the Warwick Economics Summit, and speakers and it was a better first year than any of us had a right to expect. It is also now the starting point, and with a stronger platform, a larger team and a year of experience behind us, we fully expect this year to be bigger and better.

The newsletter returns this term, with the first edition out at the end of October and the team will enter more competitions this year, so more members get the chance to stand in front of the kind of judges our finalists faced last year.

The most important addition is a series of workshops on CVs, LinkedIn and, above all, financial modelling. A financial

model is the spreadsheet in which an analyst takes a company's accounts, links the income statement, balance sheet and cash flow so that a change in one runs through the others, projects them forward, and arrives at a view on what the business is worth. It is the bulk of what a first-year analyst in banking or private equity does, and it is tested in assessment centres, yet most students meet it for the first time once they are already in the job. Our workshops start with the basics in Excel and have members build the model themselves, because there is no other way to learn it. Alongside these, expect guest speakers from banking, private equity and corporate finance, joint events with other societies, and socials throughout the year.

Behind all of this sits the new Board, made up of the society's alumni, whose role is to oversee the Group's long-term direction, hold it to the standard set last year, and use our connections in industry to open doors for members. The committee running the Group day to day and the Board behind it want the same thing, which is for every member to leave Reading better prepared than they arrived.

Events and workshop dates will be posted first on our Instagram @uor.mna, our WhatsApp community and at uormanda.com, where every past newsletter is also archived. Everyone is welcome, whatever your course or year, and however much you know about finance today. We look forward to seeing you at the first event.

*The Board*

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