

Marjan Olfati

Doctoral Candidate, Brunel University of London | marjan.olfati@brunel.ac.uk | Brunel Profile | UCL Profile
City Profile | LinkedIn | Google Scholar | ORCID.org | ResearchGate | London | 07733 505285

Doctoral candidate at Brunel University of London with extensive experience in teaching, assessment, and academic skills development within higher education. Skilled in delivering tailored one-to-one and group support for undergraduate and postgraduate students, with a focus on academic writing, critical thinking, presentation skills, and effective study strategies. Experienced in marking and providing detailed, constructive feedback on coursework and examinations, supporting student progression and academic confidence.

Has contributed to the supervision of Master's students, supporting dissertation development, research design, and academic writing. This experience builds on earlier work as a Research Assistant following completion of a Master's degree, and has been further developed through roles as Graduate Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant at Brunel University of London, Visiting Lecturer at City, University of London, and Teaching Assistant at University College London. Across these positions, has gained experience in advising, teaching, assessment, and providing academic support, demonstrating a strong understanding of diverse student needs and inclusive approaches to learning.

Since 2017, has held a range of teaching and research roles, including Graduate Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant positions in Operations Research, Multi-Criteria Decision Making, and Supply Chain Management. Responsibilities have included lecturing, delivering tutorials, supporting student supervision, marking assessments, and organising software workshops (e.g. LINGO and GAMS).

Currently a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Brunel University of London (since 2023), providing assignment feedback, delivering lectures in Operations Management, and offering one-to-one consultations. Also serves as a Research Assistant, contributing to research in AI and misinformation, and assisting with Master's supervision.

Also serves as a Visiting Lecturer at Bayes Business School (since January 2025), teaching Operations and Supply Chain Management, including lecturing, tutorials, student consultation, and assessment.

Appointed as a Teaching Assistant at University College London (from September 2025), contributing to teaching in Operations and Technology, providing feedbacks and marking coursework and final examinations.

Has undertaken professional development in teaching and learning at both Brunel and UCL, demonstrating a strong commitment to continuous improvement in pedagogical practice.

In addition, experience in a student-facing role within library services has strengthened communication, organisational, and problem-solving skills, particularly in responding to a wide range of academic support needs.

Strong technical expertise in logistics, technology-enabled supply chains, and operations research, supported by peer-reviewed ABS ranking publications.

Recipient of the Brunel Business School Doctoral Scholarship (awarded competitively from 2023) and the Vice-Chancellor's Prize, recognising academic excellence and contribution.

Current PhD research at Brunel focuses on post-consumption in the fashion industry, with an emphasis on advancing circularity through reverse logistics and policy interventions. The research adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and analytical techniques, and builds on a comprehensive systematic literature review alongside empirical research, including stakeholder interviews, survey design, and field-based studies within the post-consumption fashion sector. Engagement with a wide range of stakeholders—including charities, recyclers, upcyclers, collectors, retailers, local authorities, waste management organisations, policy groups, and end-users has provided in-depth insight into industry practices and challenges. Qualitative data have been systematically analysed using NVivo, complemented by secondary data sources.

Her PhD research has designed and developed an optimisation model addressing circular economy practices, reverse logistics, and policy interventions in the post-consumption fashion industry. The work has also involved collaboration with industry and community partners, including charities and local councils, contributing to knowledge exchange activities and sector engagement.

Education

PhD Candidate in Management Studies Research, Department of Business Analytics and Marketing, Brunel University of London, 2023–**Present**

Master of Science in Industrial Engineering, Iran University of Science and Technology | First-Class Honours

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, Mazandaran Institute of Technology

Working Experiences

Academic Experiences

Teaching Assistant at University College London (UCL), UK, (Sep 2025–**Present**)

Visiting Lecturer at City St George's, University of London, UK, (Jan 2025–**Present**)

Graduate Teaching Assistant at Brunel University of London, UK, (Sep 2023–**Present**)

Research Assistant at Brunel University of London, UK, (May 2024–July 2024)

Research Assistant in Supply Chain Network Design, Iran (Oct 2018–July 2023)

Graduate Teaching Assistant in Operations Research, Iran (Sep 2017–July 2023)

Key Responsibilities

- Delivered tutorials and lectures to students, ensuring comprehensive understanding of course material.
- Assisted in the design of exams, including developing exam questions and marking schemes.
- Marked exams and assignments, providing detailed and constructive feedback to support student development.
- Participated in exam boards, contributing to discussions on student assessments and grading.
- Provided 1-1 mentoring and academic support to students, guiding them in coursework, assignments, and exam preparation.
- Invigilated exams, ensuring fair and proper conduct align with university regulations.

Customer Service Experiences

Library Services at Brunel University of London, UK (July 2025–**Present**)

Industry Experiences

Production Planning and Inventory Management Specialist, Technogas Company, Iran (Sep 2013–Aug 2014)

Key Responsibilities

Managed production planning and inventory control, using ERP systems and forecasting methods to optimize schedules, ensure material availability, and reduce waste and delays through cross-functional collaboration and process improvements.

Awards and Honours

- PhD Studentship, Awarded by Brunel University of London, 2023-2026
- Vice-Chancellor's Conference Prize for Postgraduate Research, Awarded by Brunel University of London, graduate School, April 2024

Journal Publications

- **Marjan Olfati**, and Mohammad Mahdi Paydar, (2023), Towards a responsive-sustainable-resilient tea supply chain network design under uncertainty using big data. *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences*, 88, pp.101646. (**ABS 2**) DOI: 10.1016/j.seps.2023.101646
- Mohammad Mahdi Paydar, **Marjan Olfati**, and Chefi Triki, (2021), Designing a clothing supply chain network considering pricing and demand sensitivity to discounts and advertisement, *RAIRO-Operations Research*, 55, pp.S2509-S2541. (**ABS 1**)DOI: 10.1051/ro/2020118
- **Marjan Olfati**, and Nikbakhsh Javadian, (2020), A bi-objective multi-period closed-loop supply chain network under uncertain demand, *International Journal of Applied Decision Sciences*, 13(3), pp.363-385.
- Mohammad Mahdi Paydar, and **Marjan Olfati**, (2018), Designing and solving a reverse logistics network for polyethylene terephthalate bottles. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 195, pp.605-617. (**ABS 2**)DOI: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2018.05.218

Professional Development

Conference Participation

- 16th Annual International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management (**IEOM**), To be presented at Gazi University, Ankara, Türkiye, 23–25 June 2026
Title: Circularity and Value Recovery in Fashion: Optimising Reverse Logistics under Policy Interventions
- **Doctoral Symposium**, Brunel University of London, Brunel Business School, 1st May 2026
Title: From Waste to Value: Optimising Reverse Logistics Flows and Policy Assessment in Charity-Led Post-Consumption Circular Fashion
- INFORMS Manufacturing and Service Operations Management Society, INFORMS **MSOM** Conference 2025, London Business School, UK, 27–29 June 2025
- **EURO** conference 2025, University of Leeds, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, UK, 22–25 June 2025
Title: Leveraging Corporate Social Responsibility to Enhance Circular Fashion: Optimization of Charitable Collection Channels for Sustainability
- The annual Conference **OR66**, The Operational Research Society, Bangor University, Bangor, Wales, 10–12 September 2024
Title: Designing for circularity: a reverse logistics network of post-consumption fashion to evaluate the impact of policy interventions
- The 33rd European Conference on Operational Research (**EURO** 2024), Copenhagen, Denmark, the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), 30 June–3 July 2024
Title: A Review of the Synergistic Role of Optimisation, Game Theory, and Policy Interventions in Making the Fashion Industry Circular
- **Poster** Conference, **Brunel University of London**, Graduate School, 29 May 2024.
Title: Fashion Circularity through Optimisation, Game Theory, and Policies: A Review
- **Doctoral Symposium**, Brunel University of London, Brunel Business School, 24 May 2024.
Title: Toward a Circular Fashion Supply Chain through the Application of Game Theory, Optimisation, and Policy Intervention: A Review
- **PhD Consortium** for Operations and Information Systems Management (OISM), Brunel University of London, 8 March 2024.
Title: A Review of the Synergistic Role of Optimisation, Game Theory, and Policy Interventions in Making the Fashion Industry Circular

Industry Events Engagements

- Navigating the Future of Textiles EPR: Global Case Studies, Brand Perspectives and Data Preparation, 14 April 2026
- Designing EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) schemes for textiles, 20 Nov 2025
- The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, 7 July 2025
- The Regarm Project, 14 June 2025
- SWAP and Repair, Survey, 5 April 2025

- Launching the London Textiles Action Plan, 31 March 2025
- Net Zero- Are You Waste Aware, 11 December, 2024
- CGR Textiles Deep Dive: understanding the impact of circular economy for a sustainable textile future, 3 December 2024
- Pop-Up Event, Upcyclers, 30 November 2024
- The Future of Fashion; Panel Talk, 29 November 2024
- Is Fashion's Future Second-Hand; Panel Talk, 19 September 2024

Technical & Research Skills

Computer Skills

- Programming Languages: R, MATLAB, Python
- Optimization & Modelling Software: GAMS, LINGO, CPLEX
- Typesetting & Documentation: LaTeX (Beamer, Overleaf)
- Productivity Tools: Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Apple i Work (Keynote, Pages, Numbers), Google Workspace (Docs, Sheets, Slides)
- Version Control & Collaboration: Git, GitHub

Customer Service Skills

- Assisting with academic events and student-facing services
- Experience supporting students
- Marking and exam support
- Strong communication, time management, and IT literacy (Windows, Apple OS, Microsoft Office)
- Collaborative and able to work independently in dynamic environments

Research Skills

- Operations & Supply Chain Management
- Operations & Technology
- Data Analytics for Business
- Research Method
- Business Management
- Operations Research & Optimization in Logistics
- Meta-Heuristics Algorithms
- Multi-Criteria Decision Making

Research Interests

- Operations Management
- Supply Chain Network Design
- Circular Economy
- Applied Operations Research
- Sustainable and Resilient Operations Management
- Logistics and Transportation
- Stochastic Programming Methods
- Multi-Objective Optimization

Professional Development and Training

Research Methods and Research Integrity

- Introduction to Systematic Literature Review Part 1: Structure and Planning
- Introduction to Systematic Literature Review Part 2: Searching, Screening, and Reporting
- Doctoral Research: Getting Started
- Managing Your Data and Digital Information
- Introduction to Research Ethics
- Research Integrity
- A Guide to the BREO Process
- Funding for Doctoral Students: Alternative Approaches

Research Software and Data Analysis

- NVivo for Qualitative Data Analysis
- Python for Data Analysis

Academic Writing, Presentation and Dissemination

- Publishing in Academic Journals: Do's and Don'ts of Research Article Writing
- Designing and Delivering Poster Presentations
- How to Communicate Better

Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

- Higher Education Teaching and Learning (HETL) Information Session
- Introduction to Learning & Teaching: Initial training for Demonstrators and GTAs

Career Development

- Careers: Networking and Job-Hunting Strategies for Researchers
- Careers Live: Practical Interview Skills
- Careers Live: How to Succeed at Assessment Centres

Additional Training and Compliance

- Disclosing and managing conflicts of interest at UCL
- UCL Safety Induction
- Prevent at UCL
- Change possible: sustainable UCL
- Introduction to Equality, Diversity Inclusion
- Data Protection and Freedom of Information
- UCL Basic Fire Safety Training
- Certificate International Online School, Sustainable Agriculture from the Erasmus

Course

- * Sustainable Energy Production and Management, Grade (Excellent)
- Certificate International Online Summer School, Sustainable Agriculture from the Erasmus

Course

- * Digital Agriculture, Grade (Excellent)
- * Energy Efficiency in Agricultural Production, Grade (Excellent)
- * Sustainable Energy Production and Management, Grade (Excellent)

References

Professor Afshin Mansouri–Principal Supervisor, PhD
Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management
Brunel Business School, Brunel University of London
Email: Afshin.Mansouri@brunel.ac.uk

Professor Bilal Gokpinar–Teaching Supervisor (UCL)
Professor of Operations, Technology and Innovation
Head of Marketing and Analytics at UCL School of Management
Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management
University College London
Email: b.gokpinar@ucl.ac.uk

Professor Behzad Hezarkhani–Second Supervisor, PhD
Professor in Operations Management,
Director of the MBA programmes
Business School, University of Southampton
Email: b.hezarkhani@soton.ac.uk

Professor Mohammad Mahdi Paydar–Principal Supervisor, MSc
Vice President for Student Affairs
Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management
Babol Noshirvani University of Technology
Email: paydar@nit.ac.ir paydar.ie@gmail.com